



August 6, 2014

The Honorable Sam Johnson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Social Security
House Ways and Means Committee
B317 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson:

On behalf of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 5260, the Stop Disability Fraud Act of 2014.

We appreciate your leadership in introducing legislation that would help prevent fraud in the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and modernize the program to more effectively address the needs of individuals with disabilities. Our membership includes insurers that offer private disability income insurance and are strongly committed to serving this population through innovative products and services. Recognizing the linkage that exists between private disability income coverage and public disability programs, we applaud you for offering solutions to strengthen the integrity of the SSDI program, including providing nationwide access to Cooperative Disability Investigation units, establishing stronger penalties for disability fraud, and ensuring that eligibility determinations do not consider medical evidence submitted by unlicensed or sanctioned physicians.

We also support your proposals to update the medical-vocational guidelines for determining disability and to encourage the consideration of assistive devices and workplace accommodations in the disability determination process. Our members have a strong track record in pioneering new and innovative strategies for helping disabled workers return to the workforce when they are ready and able to take this step. A September 2013 study by

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Charles River Associates, commissioned by AHIP, shows that as a result of private disability insurers' comprehensive disability management and return-to-work programs, nearly 65,000 employees each year rely less or not at all on public disability programs, saving the federal government an estimated \$2 billion annually. Almost half of these estimated savings accrue to the SSDI program. Your legislation would build upon this success by using advances in treatment, rehabilitation, and technology to help more working Americans remain productive rather than having to rely on the SSDI program.

The solutions you offer are very timely in light of the Social Security Board of Trustees' recent projection that, under current law, the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund will deplete its assets in 2016. Your bill provides a thoughtful starting point for the legislative action that is needed to prevent this from happening.

Thank you again for introducing this legislation. We look forward to working with you to strengthen and modernize the SSDI program to better serve the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Ignagni".

Karen Ignagni
President and CEO