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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

July 25, 2014

The Honorable Carolyn Colvin
Acting Commissioner of Social Security
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21207

Dear Acting Commissioner Colvin:

I was outraged to learn that Social Security's mismanagement and failed implementation of the Disability Case Process System (DCPS) has cost taxpayers close to \$300 million to date.

At a January briefing, the Deputy Commissioner for Systems and Chief Information Officer briefed staff on the progress of DCPS, at our request. Staff was assured that a majority of DCPS's functionality would be in place by Fiscal Year 2015. There was no mention of the challenges facing the project or commissioning a management review to assess problems with DCPS. Is the staff that supports you in leading this agency simply uninformed? Or perhaps worse, did they choose not to tell the whole story?

I also understand that staff of the Inspector General (IG) recently requested that they attend a meeting among Social Security officials to discuss issues encountered in DCPS implementation, and that the request was denied. This is the act of an agency that has something to hide, and it is completely unacceptable. I have requested that the IG investigate the DCPS project and I expect your full cooperation.

Your own independent consultant found that "the program has invested \$288 million over six years, delivered limited functionality, and faced schedule delays as well as increasing stakeholder concerns." Other findings include poor execution, a growing backlog of problems, and a lengthy, expensive, and incomplete design phase.

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Every time you or one of your employees are in front of the Congress, you say you need more taxpayer dollars. Yet you spend the funds you have on projects that simply do not work, further wasting taxpayer dollars. It is a disgrace and an unconscionable level of arrogance. Why would anyone trust you with even more hard-earned taxpayer dollars?

Until such time that you can provide this Subcommittee with your plan to address these issues, ensure a timely and effective roll out of DCPS, and provide your assurances that no further taxpayer dollars will be wasted, I urge you to stop further spending on the implementation of this out of control project.

Your prompt reply is appreciated. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Kim Hildred, Subcommittee Staff Director at (202) 225-9263.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "S" and "J".

SAM JOHNSON
Chairman