

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF  
SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANTS' REPRESENTATIVES  
(NOSSCR)**

560 Sylvan Avenue • Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632  
Telephone: (201) 567- 4228 • Fax: (201) 567-1542 • email: [nosscr@nosscr.org](mailto:nosscr@nosscr.org)

*Executive Director*  
Barbara Silverstone

**Written Statement for the Record  
on behalf of the  
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives**

**Hearing on the Social Security Disability  
Fraud Scheme in New York**

**Subcommittee on Social Security  
House Committee on Ways and Means**

**January 16, 2014**

**Submitted by:**

Barbara Silverstone, Executive Director

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These comments are submitted on behalf of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR) as a Statement for the Record of the January 16, 2014, House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee hearing on the Social Security Disability Fraud Scheme in New York.

Founded in 1979, NOSSCR is a professional association of attorneys and other advocates who represent individuals seeking Social Security disability or Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits. NOSSCR members represent these individuals in legal proceedings before the Social Security Administration and in federal court. NOSSCR is a national organization with a current membership of more than 4,000 members from the private and public sectors and is committed to the highest quality legal representation for claimants.

In January 2014, a group of approximately 100 former police officers, firefighters and others were indicted in New York City for allegations of fraudulently obtaining Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, as part of what is being described in news reports as a concerted action over a long period of time. The allegations are extremely troubling and deserve close scrutiny by the Social Security Administration and law enforcement.

NOSSCR condemns any misuse of the Social Security disability programs. If true, the allegations are beyond reprehensible. Any individual who seeks to abuse the Social Security disability programs does so at the expense of the millions of Americans with significant disabilities and severe illnesses who receive benefits appropriately, and for whom benefits are a vital lifeline – and should be brought to justice.

As an organization that fights for the economic security of American workers with disabilities and their families, we cannot allow the bad behavior of a few bad apples jeopardize the crucial benefits of the disabled workers who receive benefits appropriately, whom our members see in their work single every day.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) works hard to ensure program integrity, and thankfully fraud is extremely rare – but even one instance of abuse is unacceptable. SSA has been deprived of the administrative resources it requires to conduct necessary program integrity work for several years. Congress must provide SSA with sufficient administrative resources to ensure that benefits are paid to the right person, in the right amount, and at the right time – and to implement the array of critical safeguards that exist in current law.

In addition to these comments, NOSSCR supports the Statement for the Record submitted by the Co-Chairs of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Social Security Task Force.