



DISABILITIES LAW PROGRAM

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SOCIETY, INC.

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12/18/2017

Representative Sam Johnson
Chairman
Social Security Subcommittee
House Ways and Means Committee
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC. 20515

Representative John Larson
Ranking Member
Social Security Subcommittee
House Ways and Means Committee
1501 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC. 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Larson:

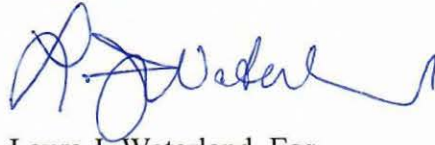
On behalf of the Disabilities Law Program at Community Legal Aid Society in Delaware, I write in strong support of H.R. 4547, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2017. Enactment of this legislation will provide critical protections for Social Security beneficiaries as well as needed reforms to the crucial representative payee program.

The Disabilities Law Program is a program of the Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. We are the organization appointed by the Governor to provide protection and advocacy services to individuals with disabilities living in facilities and in the community in Delaware. Many of our clients are recipients of Supplemental Security Income and/or Social Security Disability Income paid by SSA. These clients who have representative payees to help them manage their funds will benefit greatly from enhanced protections and oversight provided by H.R. 4547.

News stories, Office of Inspector General and Government Accountability Office reports, and hearings held by the House Ways and Means Committee have demonstrated the need for changes in the representative payee program. Your bipartisan legislation proposes many important and needed changes that will streamline the program as well as take important steps to increase oversight of the representative payee program by funding the nationwide network of P&A systems to monitor how representative payees are administering the Social Security funds received by beneficiaries.

Again, we greatly appreciate your work together on this important issue culminating in the introduction of this critical legislation. We stand ready to work with both of you to quickly get this important legislation enacted into law. Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at 302-476-8509.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Waterland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laura J. Waterland, Esq,
Project Director, Disabilities Law Program
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