



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

Representative Davis
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Representative Larson
1501 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

July 28, 2020

Dear Representatives Davis and Larson:

The Arc of the United States writes in support of the Fairness for Seniors and People with Disabilities During COVID-19 Act of 2020. The Arc is the largest national community-based organization advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that it would not process overpayments to ensure that people with disabilities on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) had their full benefits available to them in this time of financial and public health crisis. We supported SSA taking this step and believe this pause should continue through the end of the pandemic. However, the pause has had the unintended consequence of increasing the overpayments owed by some beneficiaries through no fault of the beneficiary. Earlier this month, we joined allies in calling on Congress to ensure that beneficiaries have relief from these COVID-19-caused overpayments.¹

We thank you for introducing legislation to address this issue and strongly support your bill to ensure that beneficiaries are not penalized by eliminating liability for these COVID-19 overpayments. We also support the protections this bill provides to beneficiaries who may face loss of Medicaid coverage during the pandemic due to loss of SSI. This will provide crucial protection to children with disabilities who rely on SSI whose parental income changed due to the pandemic resulting in eligibility issues.

Please contact Bethany Lilly at lilly@thearc.org with any questions, or if you would like to further discuss these issues.

Sincerely,

Bethany Lilly
Director of Income Policy
The Arc of the United States

¹ Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Letter (Jul. 16, 2020), http://c-c-d.org/fichiers/CCD-Letter-to-the-Hill-re-CDR-Resart_FINAL_7-16-20.pdf.