



July 16, 2015

The Honorable Sam Johnson
3rd District, Texas
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson,

I am writing today on behalf of the 1.3 million members of AMAC, the Association of Mature American Citizens, in support of your bill, H.R. 2136, the “Improving the Quality of Disability Decisions Act of 2015.” This significant piece of legislation seeks to enhance consistency, quality, and accuracy across the disability determination process.

H.R. 2136 would require the Social Security Administration (SSA) to review hearing decisions made by Administrative Law Judges to ensure that judges are following the law as well as Social Security’s regulation and policy. Furthermore, the bill would require SSA to report the results of these quality reviews to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which maintains jurisdiction over Social Security. Quality reviews previously conducted by SSA have already led to improvements in uniformity among disability determinations, and AMAC firmly believes that they should continue as a way to exercise responsible oversight of the disability program. Moreover, AMAC recognizes that reports supplied to the Committee on Ways and Means can also provide valuable information to guide future Social Security policy, identify where existing law is vulnerable to error, and better assist and train Administrative Law Judges.

While AMAC remains very concerned about the future of the Social Security disability program, which is projected to be insolvent in late 2016, we are encouraged by the commonsense solutions – such as H.R. 2136 – that you and your colleagues have proposed. We appreciate your steadfast leadership and principled commitment to saving and strengthening this vital program on which many seniors and disabled Americans depend. Therefore, AMAC is pleased to support H.R. 2136, the “Improving the Quality of Disability Decisions Act of 2015.”

Sincerely,
Dan Weber
President and Founder of AMAC