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January 10, 2018

The Honorable Sam Johnson, Chairman
The Honorable John B. Larson, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Social Security
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Larson,

On behalf of the National Association of Disability Representatives, a professional organization comprised of more than 600 professionals who assist claimants in applying for disability income assistance from the Social Security Administration (SSA), I write in support of H.R. 4547, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2017.

This bipartisan legislation is a positive step toward improving and strengthening SSA's representative payee program. We welcome the legislation's provisions to streamline the program, while also strengthening oversight of the representative payee program.

While these provisions represent positive administrative and oversight improvements, it is important that Congress take steps to ensure that any administrative savings generated by the provisions of H.R. 4547 are available to SSA to use to further strengthen and improve the representative payee program. Congress also must adequately fund these new initiatives in order to assure that these or other agency services are not further eroded.

Thank you for introducing this bipartisan legislation to strengthen the representative payee program.

Sincerely,

Phillip B. Litteral

President