



## DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER-NH

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January 31, 2018

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 Disability Rights Center – New Hampshire, I write in strong support of H.R. 4547, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2017. Enactment of this legislation is critical to protect Social Security beneficiaries as well as reform the representative payee program.

Disability Rights Center – NH (DRC-NH) is the protection and advocacy agency for New Hampshire. We provide legal advice or representation to over 1000 New Hampshire residents with disabilities every year on issues like special education, Medicaid, employment, accessibility and access to home and community based services.

Over the last decade, DRC-NH has encountered many issues with representative payees, including institutional payees who did not seem to be acting in the best interests of payees with disabilities, including improperly tracking or mismanaging their funds. This legislation is critical to help protect against such abuses.

Thank you for sponsoring this legislation to increase protections for people with disabilities. I am proud and grateful that Representatives Kuster and Shea-Porter from New Hampshire are co-sponsoring it.

DRC-NH stands ready to work with both of you and all of New Hampshire's legislative delegation to quickly get this important legislation enacted into law. Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at 603-228-0432 or [stephaniep@drcnh.org](mailto:stephaniep@drcnh.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Stephanie Patrick'.

Stephanie Patrick, Executive Director