

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 2, 1979

CONTACT: MIKE SERPE
202-225-3452

WASHINGTON D.C. --- WEST VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, IN HIS CONTINUING EFFORT TO ASSIST BLACK LUNG VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES, HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO CORRECT AN INEQUITY IN THE BLACK LUNG BENEFITS PROGRAM.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL'S MEASURE HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE HOUSE EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE.

THE RAHALL BLACK LUNG BILL WOULD REMOVE THE DISABILITY OFFSET ON BLACK LUNG CLAIMS WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY FILED WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, BEFORE 1974.

RAHALL EXPLAINED, "UNDER THE BLACK LUNG REFORM ACT OF 1977, PROVISION WAS MADE FOR ALL DENIED CLAIMS, NO MATTER WHETHER THEY WERE FILED WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OR WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, TO BE REVIEWED UNDER THE NEW 1977 LAW."

THE CONGRESSMAN WENT ON TO SAY, "HOWEVER, APPLICANTS WHO FILED BEFORE 1974 WITH SOCIAL SECURITY AND WHO ALSO RECEIVE DISABILITY BENEFITS, ARE NOW HAVING THEIR BLACK LUNG PAYMENTS OFFSET BY THOSE DISABILITY BENEFITS."

"THROUGH NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS WITH MANY BLACK LUNG VICTIMS AND BLACK LUNG ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA, I FELT IT WASN NECESSARY TO SUBMIT THIS MEASURE AND MAKE THE PROGRAM FAIR FOR ALL THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO SPENT MANY YEARS IN OUR NATION'S COAL MINES."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, SINCE ENTERING CONGRESS IN 1976, HAS BEEN A SPONSOR AND AVID SUPPORTER OF BLACK LUNG REFORM LEGISLATION.

"WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN HELPING BLACK LUNG VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES, BUT WE STILL HAVE WORK TO DO, AND I INTEND TO DO ALL I CAN TO HELP," RAHALL CONCLUDED.