

RADIO TAPE FOR WEEK OF OCT 26

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

FOR YEARS THE EFFORTS TO SPEED UP THE PROCESSING OF SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMS HEARINGS HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL, WITH CLAIMANTS HAVING TO WAIT ON THE AVERAGE OF 168 DAYS BEFORE THEY EVEN FACE AN APPEALS BOARD.

I HAVE JOINED AN MOVEMENT IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO IMPOSE MANDATORY TIME LIMITS ON THE PROCESSING OF SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMS, JUST AS TIME LIMITS APPLY TO THE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS FOR OTHER BENEFIT PROGRAMS.

THIS LEGISLATION WOULD REQUIRE INITIAL AND RECONSIDERATION DECISION TO BE MADE WITHIN 90 DAYS, AND HEARINGS AND APPEALS DECISION TO BE MADE WITHIN 120 DAYS. IF AN INDIVIDUAL'S ~~XXXX~~ CLAIM IS NOT CONSIDERED WITHIN THIS TIME PERIOD, THEY WOULD BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS BASED ON HIS OR HER EARNINGS RECORD.

THE FRUSTRATION MANY WEST VIRGINIANS FACE IN REFERENCE TO THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMS MUST STOP. SINCE THEY HAVE PAYED INTO THE SYSTEM WITH EACH PAYCHECK, THEY DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THEIR CASE IN A TIMELY MANNER.

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