

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SAYS HASTY DISABILITY INSURANCE REVIEWS TO BE REFORMED

WASHINGTON D.C. --- "THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION IS TAKING STEPS TO RESPOND TO THE CONCERNS OF CONGRESS AND THE NEEDS OF COUNTLESS AMERICANS AND WEST VIRGINIANS," CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL STATED, "BY REFORMING THE HASTY REVIEW PROCESS OF DISABILITY INSURANCE CLAIMANTS."

RAHALL, WHO WROTE A LETTER TO SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSIONER JOHN SVAHN AND SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE SCHWEIKER IN EARLY JULY URGING A CHANGE IN THE REVIEW POLICY SAID, "THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROTECTING THOSE DISABILITY INSURANCE CLAIMANTS WHO ARE AND WOULD BE VICTIMS OF THESE HASTY AND UNFAIR REVIEWS."

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL POINTED OUT, "LAST YEAR ALONE, 100,000 CLAIMANTS (AND NEARLY 100,000 ADDITIONAL DEPENDENTS) WERE TERMINATED FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY ROLLS, THOUGH MANY OF THEM REMAINED UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO THEIR DISABILITY." RAHALL WENT ON TO OBSERVE, "NOW WITH THE DECISION TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF REVIEWS ON DISABILITY CASES BY 20 PERCENT, GREATER CARE CAN BE GIVEN TO THE INDIVIDUAL CASES OF THESE INDIVIDUALS."

SOCIAL SECURITY ANNOUNCED THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS WERE BEING MADE FOR THE GOOD OF THE BENEFICIARY AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE PROGRAM.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL STATED, "I BELIEVE THAT REVIEWS OF SUCH CASES ARE AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF OVERSEEING THIS PROGRAM, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION MUST TAKE GREAT PAINS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS OF THOSE WHO TRULY BELONG IN THE DISABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM."

"I PLAN TO FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF THIS REFORM MADE BY SOCIAL SECURITY, AND STAND READY TO AGAIN VOICE STRONG OPPOSITION TO THEIR METHODS IF INEQUITIES OCCUR IN THE FUTURE," RAHALL STRESSED.