

RAHALL Weekly Report

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SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

by Congressman Nick Rahall

Over the past few months, countless 4th District residents have been in contact with me concerning the issue of Social Security Disability benefits being terminated. I would therefore, like to take this opportunity to inform the people of southern West Virginia about legislation that Congress recently approved that will restore millions of dollars in Social Security disability payments to almost 45,000 Americans who's eligibility has been terminated.

This measure allows disability recipients who are declared ineligible before next October to continue receiving Social Security payments until their appeal decision is resolved. Beginning in 1984, it requires a face-to-face hearing between recipients and Social Security officials before benefits can be terminated.

I am very pleased by this action, because now it is more difficult for some over-zealous administrator to arbitrarily terminate disability.

I have been well aware of the hardships caused many families in West Virginia because of the cut-off of their disability benefits. I have personally pleaded with Social Security officials to correct these inequities. As a co-sponsor and strong supporter of the legislation that reversed this unfair practice, I believe the appropriate steps have been taken to protect disability insurance recipients in the future.

My offices are readily available to answer any questions people may have about their own particular case. The District Offices, being located in Bluefield, Beckley, Huntington, and Logan are situated so that all 4th District residents can be better served, as well as my Washington D.C. office being: 440 Cannon Building.