

TAPE FOR WEEK OF AUG. 22



THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

IN RECENT MONTHS, A MAJOR ISSUE TO THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS-- AND WEST VIRGINIANS--HAS BEEN THE REVIEW OF SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY CLAIMS. WHILE WE AGREE THAT PERIODIC REVIEWS OF THOSE RECEIVING THESE PAYMENTS ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE PROGRAM FROM ABUSE AND WASTE--UNFORTUNATELY, MANY REALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS HAVE SUFFERED BECAUSE OF THE REVIEW PROCESS.

IN SOME CASES, THE SPEED AND CARELESSNESS OF THE REVIEWS HAVE THROWN MANY TRULLY DESERVING PERSONS OFF THE DISABILITY ROLLS. A SITUATION WHICH IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

THEREFORE, I HAVE JOINED WITH A NUMBER OF MY COLLEAGUES IN THE CONGRESS, TO GUARANTEE THAT THE SOCIAL SECURITY DISABLITY REVIEW PROCESS IS CARRIED OUT WITH CARE, AND COMMON SENSE.

GRANTED, ABUSE IN ANY GOVERNMENT PROGRAM NOT ONLY THREATENS THE FINANCIAL SOLVENCY OF THE PROGRAM, BUT IT DEMORALIZES THOSE NON-RECIPIENTS WHO ARE DESERVING OF BENEFITS. ^{SO} IF A PERSON MEETS THE PROPER CRITERIA, THEY SHOULD HAVE NO FEAR THAT THEIR BENEFITS WILL BE TERMINIED.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN, NICK RAHALL.