

TAPE FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 1

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE 98TH CONGRESS, WE HAVE STRUGGLED TO FIND AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS UNFAIRLY LOSING THEIR BENEFITS. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT LAST WEEK CONGRESS FOUND THE ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM.

BY UNANIMOUS VOTES IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE, LEGISLATION WAS PASSED WHICH SEEKS TO ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO ARE TRULY DISABLED ARE NOT UNFAIRLY TERMINATED FROM THEIR BENEFITS. UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WHICH IS AWAITING THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE, BENEFITS CAN ~~NOT~~ BE TERMINATED ONLY IF THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY MEDICAL IMPROVEMENT IN AN INDIVIDUALS CONDITION AND THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS NOW ABLE TO ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY. THIS DETERMINATION WILL NOW BE MADE BY WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE ON A NEUTRAL BASIS.

I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A COSPONSOR OF THE HOUSE VERSION OF THIS BILL. THE DISABILITY PROGRAM IS ALMOST THIRTY YEARS OLD -- AND IT IS STILL A VALID EXPRESSION OF THIS COUNTRY'S COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. PLEASE JOIN ME IN URGING THE PRESIDENT TO SIGN THIS BILL AND ENACT IT INTO LAW IMMEDIATELY.

THIS YOUR CONGRESSMAN, NICK RAHALL.