



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 4, 1991

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RAHALL URGES: DON'T INCREASE BACKLOG

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today urged Richard Darman, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to release \$125 million in contingency funds for the Social Security Administration, as requested by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Louis W. Sullivan and provided for by the Congress.

Citing the increased backlog of an already jammed system, Rahall protested that by not releasing the funds, the federal government was subjecting many of those desperate for their disability benefits to an even longer wait, some as much as six months.

"While I applaud the release of the \$75 million for the Health Care Financing Administration, the fact that the contingency funds are still being withheld makes it evident that the backlog will continue," said Rahall.

"Congress established the contingency fund with the intent that it be used precisely for the purpose for which it is now needed -- facilitating the logjam of disability benefit cases," said Rahall. "To make these individuals wait for up to six months would at best be an injustice, at worst a tragedy."

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March 4, 1991

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The Honorable Richard Darman
Director
Office of Management and Budget
250 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Darman:

I would like to take this opportunity to urge the release of the \$125 million in contingency funds for the Social Security Administration as requested by the Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Louis W. Sullivan. While I applaud the release of \$75 million for the Health Care Financing Administration, the current request from the Secretary from the SSA contingency fund demonstrates that additional resources are necessary for the efficient processing of disability benefit cases.

Congress established the contingency fund with the intent that it be used precisely for the purpose for which it is now needed. Your refusal to release the full amount necessary for HHS to continue serving those individuals that are in desperate need of assistance is disheartening. The continued delay of the release of these funds only further adds to the growing backlog of unprocessed disability benefit cases. To make these individuals wait for up to six months would at best be an injustice, at worst a tragedy.

I again urge you to do what is right and release the contingency fund so we may properly meet the needs of this Nation's disabled.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

NJR/dm