

June 19, 2015

The Honorable Sam Johnson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Social Security
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

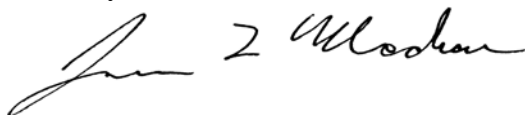
Dear Chairman Johnson:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am pleased to offer our support for H.R. 1936, "Improving the Integrity of Disability Evidence Act," and your efforts to improve the integrity of the Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income programs. The AMA stands firmly committed to eradicating fraud and abuse, while ensuring that Social Security adjudicators have access to all medical evidence necessary in order to make an equitable and informed disability determination.

H.R. 1936 seeks to ensure that Social Security disability determinations are based on accurate and objective medical evidence. In particular, we appreciate the flexibility in the legislative language enabling the Commissioner of Social Security to examine evidence "for good cause" that was furnished by an otherwise excluded individual or entity. This provision affords the Agency sufficient discretion to ensure that good faith claimants are not unduly disadvantaged due to circumstances outside of their control.

We believe that your efforts to safeguard the integrity of this vital safety net will help the program work fairly and efficiently for Americans with disabilities. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you as you advance this initiative.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD