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June 16, 2015

The Honorable Sam Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

On behalf of the more than 80,000 members of the American College of Surgeons, I am writing in support of your recently introduced legislation, H.R. 1936, *the Improving the Integrity of Disability Evidence Act*.

Many Americans who are unable to work depend on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits to support themselves and their family. To determine if an individual is truly disabled, the Social Security Administration (SSA) may rely on medical evidence from the claimant and his or her own physicians. It is important that the evidence considered in these determinations be unbiased and from trustworthy sources.

Recent high profile cases as well as a Senate report have focused attention on a small number of physicians with questionable qualifications who provided evidence in fraudulent SSDI appeals. Your legislation would ensure that medical evidence considered in making disability determinations is from reputable sources by prohibiting evidence from physicians who have been barred from participating in Medicare or otherwise found guilty of fraud by the SSA.

Fellows of the American College of Surgeons adhere to a strict code of conduct which states that trust is integral to the practice of surgery. Your legislation will help to preserve that trust and we thank you for your efforts on this issue.

Sincerely,

David Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director

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