



PROTECTION & ADVOCACY
SERVICE, INC.

Elmer L. Cerano, *Executive Director*

January 12, 2018

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Representative Sam Johnson
Chairman
Social Security Subcommittee
House Ways and Means Committee
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative John Larson
Ranking Member
Social Security Subcommittee
House Ways and Means Committee
1501 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Larson:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS), I write in strong support of H.R. 4547, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2017, and to thank you for cosponsoring this crucial legislation. Enactment of H.R. 4547 will provide critical protections for Social Security beneficiaries as well as needed reforms to the representative payee program.

MPAS is the independent, private, nonprofit organization designated by the Governor of the State of Michigan to advocate and protect the legal rights of people with disabilities in Michigan. MPAS services include information and referral, short-term assistance, selected individual and legal representation, systemic advocacy, monitoring, and training.

News stories, Office of Inspector General and Government Accountability Office reports, and hearings held by the House Ways and Means Committee have demonstrated the need for changes in the representative payee program. Your bipartisan legislation will streamline and augment oversight of the representative payee system by funding the nationwide network of P&A systems to monitor how representative payees administer the Social Security funds entrusted to them. In Michigan, under a previous version of this program, MPAS completed 152 reviews, many with recommendations to Social Security for follow-up.

Again, we greatly appreciate your work together on this important issue and stand ready to work with you to move this legislation forward into law. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Elmer L. Cerano
Executive Director

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