



February 4, 2018

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 Bld.  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: **Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2017**

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Larson:

On behalf of the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP), I write in strong support of H.R. 4547, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2017. Enactment of this legislation will provide critical protections for Social Security beneficiaries as well as needed reforms to the crucial representative payee program.

ADAP has served as the federally-funded Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agency for persons with disabilities in Alabama since 1976, and is part of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN). We have been involved in a range of individual and case advocacy efforts, focusing especially on behalf of vulnerable persons in foster care, mental health, juvenile justice, education and other placements. Thus, we address issues that affect the everyday lives of children, youth and adults with disabilities throughout our state. Please see: <http://adap.ua.edu/>

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 proposes many important and needed changes that will streamline the program, as well as take important steps to increase oversight of the representative payee program by funding the nationwide network of P&A systems to monitor how representative payees are administering the Social Security funds received by beneficiaries.

**Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program**  
*The Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Alabama*

We greatly appreciate your work together on this important issue culminating in the introduction of this critical legislation. We stand ready to work with both of you to quickly get this important legislation enacted into law. Should you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me directly, as indicated below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JAT', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James A. Tucker, Esq.  
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