



SOCIAL SECURITY

The Commissioner

October 06, 2015

The Honorable Pedro R. Pierluisi
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Pierluisi:

Thank you for meeting with me on September 10th to discuss the important issues you raised concerning Social Security disability insurance beneficiaries whose cases are being (or have been) reviewed in light of an ongoing criminal case in Puerto Rico. I appreciate your support for rooting out fraud and abuse wherever it is found. Disability benefits are meant for those who are truly disabled, and the integrity of the Disability program is essential.

As we discussed, I assure you that your constituents will be treated the same by the Social Security Administration as those beneficiaries involved in similar fraud cases that have occurred elsewhere. I appreciate you bringing my attention to certain cases of critical need, and that those individuals whose benefits have been terminated have an opportunity to file a new disability application while their appeal is pending.

You also expressed concern about individuals who have had their benefits terminated because of our review and who are now requesting a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. In response, I have agreed to an expedited review of a subset of these cases prior to the hearing. This expedited review, which has already started, will determine if the termination decision should change based on evidence now available. These expedited reviews will mean that some individuals may have their benefits restored more quickly.

I look forward to working with you on all of these issues, and I thank you once again for the productive meeting. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Judy Chesser, our Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, at (202) 358-6030.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carolyn W. Colvin".

Carolyn W. Colvin
Acting Commissioner