

FRENCH HILL
2ND DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS AND
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2015

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
1229 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2506
FAX: (202) 225-5903

CONWAY DISTRICT OFFICE
1105 DEER STREET, SUITE 12
CONWAY, AR 72032
PHONE: (501) 358-3481
FAX: (501) 358-3494

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT OFFICE
1501 NORTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 150
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207
PHONE: (501) 324-5941
FAX: (501) 324-6029

Ms. Carolyn Colvin
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21235-0001

Dear Ms. Colvin:

I am writing to congratulate the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) for receiving the reestablished Golden Fleece Award! The Golden Fleece Award, first implemented by Senator William Proxmire, highlights wasteful government spending by our Nation's federal agencies.

An audit released by the Office of Inspector General this month found that over a ten year period, nearly 4 million beneficiaries of SSA disability programs were provided with an estimated \$16.8 billion in overpayments. The audit notes that SSA assessed overpayments for nearly half of the 1,532 sampled beneficiaries. The reasons for overpayment included issuing payments following a death of the beneficiary, issuing payments to prisoners or fugitive felons, medical improvement of the beneficiary, or increased work activity of the beneficiary.

At a time when our Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program is facing a significant funding shortfall, it is essential that we ensure these precious taxpayer funds are going to help eligible individuals who are truly in need of these benefits. Under current law, the SSDI trust fund will be depleted by 2016, resulting in a 20 percent cut to benefits. Of course, like you, I do not want to see a sudden reduction in these important SSDI benefits that many individuals with disabilities rely on. That is why it is so critical to ensure that these dollars are not wasted on those who are no longer disabled or have returned to work and are no longer eligible to receive these benefits.

I am committed to eradicating this type of inefficient and ineffective spending and today's Golden Fleece highlights the mismanagement of these essential taxpayer dollars. I invite your immediate attention to this issue, and please keep me apprised of your efforts at improvement.

Sincerely,

French Hill
Member of Congress