



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

May 31, 2018

The Honorable Nancy Berryhill
Acting Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21235-0001

Dear Commissioner Berryhill:

I write to inform you that the Social Security Administration (SSA) is being awarded this month's Golden Fleece Award for overpaying Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries and for permanently waiving overpayment debt.

According to a 2016 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report to Congress, SSA overpaid beneficiaries almost \$20 billion and permanently waived over \$2.4 billion in overpayment debt between fiscal years 2005 and 2014.¹ The United States is currently more than \$20 trillion in debt, and our government agencies must be cognizant of this while spending taxpayer dollars.

In their most recent annual report to Congress, GAO reported that this area of concern has not yet been addressed by SSA, stating "To help prevent the loss of billions of dollars, SSA should take steps to prevent overpayments to beneficiaries of the Disability Insurance program and improper waivers of beneficiaries' overpayment of debt."²

I request that you provide responses to the following questions:

1. How much money did SSA overpay to SSDI beneficiaries from FY2014 to the present?
2. Has SSA permanently waived overpayment debt since FY2014, and, if so, what is the total of the overpayment debt that has been permanently waived?
3. What steps has SSA taken since the 2016 GAO report to address this issue?

Our federal agencies must be good stewards of our federal tax dollars, and I am committed to ensuring effective practices at our nation's federal agencies. Should you require any additional authority from Congress to address these concerns, I urge you to notify Congress as soon as possible. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

French Hill
Member of Congress

¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-16-375SP. *2016 Annual Report: Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits*. April 2016.

² U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-18-371SP. *2018 Annual Report: Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits*. April 2018.