



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF
SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANTS'
REPRESENTATIVES

ESTABLISHED 1979

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Neal and Pallone, Ranking Members Brady and Walden, and Members of the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees:

The National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR) would like to thank you and your fellow committee members for your leadership in response to the COVID-19 crisis. NOSSCR is a specialized bar association for attorneys and advocates who represent Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claimants throughout the adjudication process and in federal court. Founded in 1979, NOSSCR is a national organization with a current membership of more than 2,500 members from the private and nonprofit sectors.

As you work to mitigate the dire effects that COVID-19 poses to the American economy, we ask that you support and include in the next COVID-19 relief package the "Stop the Wait Act" (H.R. 4386 and S. 2496.)

During this time of economic crisis, the "Stop the Wait Act" would provide an economic stimulus to the American economy and many of our most vulnerable citizens. This legislation would end the five-month waiting period that SSDI beneficiaries must endure after they have been determined eligible for their earned SSDI benefits. By ending this unnecessary delay, you will help ensure that these disabled Americans are housing and food secure while simultaneously stimulating the economy.

Additionally, this legislation would phase out the current 24-month waiting period that SSDI beneficiaries must endure before receiving their Medicare disability benefits. This current crisis has shown us how important access to quality healthcare is in slowing down the spread of COVID-19 and recovering from its impact.

For these reasons, we ask that you include the "Stop the Wait Act" in the next COVID-19 package. If you have any questions, please contact NOSSCR's Director of Political and Legislative Strategy, Michael Linskey, at Michael.linskey@nossocr.org or at (202) 550-9996. Thank you for your leadership on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

Barbara R Silverstone

Barbara Silverstone
Executive Director