

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Saul  
Commissioner  
Social Security Administration  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Commissioner Saul:

We are writing to request the Social Security Administration (SSA) use the demonstration authority provided in the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015* (P.L. 114-74) to conduct a demonstration project focused on improving outcomes for veterans receiving Disability Insurance (DI) benefits who want to try to return to work.

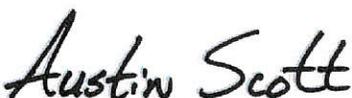
The *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015* reauthorized the SSA's demonstration authority until December 31, 2022, providing the opportunity to test ways to improve the DI program. While the SSA is currently conducting the Promoting Opportunity Demonstration (POD) project, as required by the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015*, we feel an additional, separate project is necessary.

The SSA currently has expedited processing of disability claims for our Wounded Warriors and those with a 100% Permanent and Total disability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Once approved for benefits a veteran has the same rules regarding returning to work as all other DI beneficiaries. Our nation's Purple Heart recipients deserve better given their personal sacrifices for our country.

We ask that the SSA conduct a demonstration project focused on those veterans who are DI beneficiaries and who have received a Purple Heart. The demonstration project should build upon the structure of POD project, using the same offset approach. While we recognize that some Purple Heart recipients could be participating in the POD project, a separate demonstration would be informative for the Congress as we continue to consider ways to improve the DI program's work incentives. In light of the unique needs of these veterans who have received a Purple Heart, the participants should be able to itemize their impairment related work expenses up to the level of substantial gainful activity for the blind (\$2,110 in 2020).

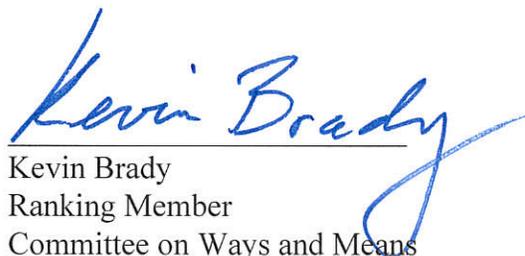
We look forward to your prompt response. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Jim Dolbow, Military Legislative Assistant for Rep. Austin Scott at 202-225-6531 and Amy Shuart, Social Security Subcommittee Staff Director at 202-225-4021.

Sincerely,



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Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means