



SOCIAL SECURITY

The Commissioner

November 22, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Committee Chair Neal:

I am writing to inform you that for fiscal year (FY) 2019, I did not need to exercise my authority under sections 221(i)(2) and 1633 of the Social Security Act (Act) to waive the three-year time frame under section 221(i)(1) of the Act to complete certain continuing disability reviews (CDR). Due to the sustained program integrity resources over the past several, we eliminated the CDR backlog in FY 2018 and continued to remain current on CDRs in FY 2019. Therefore, it is not necessary to exercise any State's eligibility under section 221(i)(2) of the Act for a waiver of the three-year time period to perform certain CDRs.

After carefully reviewing available resources, the pending reviews, the projected number of new applications, the staffing levels in each State Disability Determination Services (DDS), and the availability of medical and other resources, the agency determined that the DDSs could complete 703,000 CDRs in FY 2019, the number of CDRs necessary to keep up with the cases coming due for a review. In FY 2019, we completed 713,156 CDRs. As a result, we did not to defer any full medical CDRs for FY 2019.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me, or your staff may contact Eric Skidmore, our Acting Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, at (202) 358-6030.

We are also sending this information to Senators Grassley and Wyden, and Representative Brady.

Sincerely,

Andrew Saul
Commissioner