



December 6, 2017

Representative Don Bacon  
1516 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bacon:

Disability Rights Nebraska is the designated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska. Our agency's charge is to ensure that Nebraskans with disabilities, especially those who are most vulnerable, will be free from harm and able to exercise the same rights, opportunities and choices available to all citizens in order to live fully integrated and culturally valued lives.

News stories, Office of Inspector General and Government Accountability Office reports, and hearings held by the House Ways and Means Committee have demonstrated the need for changes in the representative payee program. H.R. 4547 proposes many important and needed changes that will streamline the program as well as take important steps to increase oversight of the representative payee program by funding the nationwide network of P&A systems to monitor how representative payees are administering the Social Security funds received by beneficiaries.

This partnership between the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the P&A systems will not only allow SSA to meet their responsibilities, but also allows the P&A systems to uncover and address health and safety issues and other matters important to the beneficiary that fall outside of SSA's purview.

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The Protection and Advocacy System in Nebraska

Representative Don Bacon

December 15, 2017

Page Two

Thank you for considering this request to cosponsor this critical legislation. Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Eric A. Evans, PhD

Chief Executive Officer

BAM/EAE/jrm