



**United Spinal
Association**

www.unitedspinal.org

November 19, 2019

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
U. S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elissa Slotkin
U. S. House of Representatives
1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Grijalva and Slotkin,

On behalf of United Spinal Association, I would like to provide our support to your efforts to gain passage of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Restoration Act of 2019, H.R. 4280.

United Spinal Association is the largest non-profit organization, founded by paralyzed veterans, dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of all people living with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D), including veterans, and providing support and information to loved ones, care providers and professionals. United Spinal has over 70 years of experience educating and empowering approximately 2.5 million individuals with SCI/D to achieve and maintain the highest levels of independence, health and personal fulfillment. United Spinal has 54 chapters, close to 200 support groups and more than 100 rehabilitation facilities and hospital partners nationwide including 10 distinguished Spinal Cord Injury Model System Centers that support innovative projects and research in the field of SCI. United Spinal Association is also a VA-accredited veterans service organization (VSO) serving veterans with disabilities of all kinds.

If Social Security is the third rail of politics, most certainly then, SSI is the third rail of survival for millions of Americans, becoming victims to inflationary economic forces. As you have stated, Representative Grijalva, "far too many are being rejected from receiving the assistance they need simply because the program hasn't kept pace with inflation. Modest updates will provide needed stability to those with disabilities and seniors who are continuing to struggle to afford basic necessities, such as skyrocketing costs of medication." United Spinal strongly believes your legislation addresses this most basic sense of equity and fairness.

Representative Slotkin, as you are acutely aware, the shortcomings of the SSI program due to a lack of inflationary safeguards has negatively affected families with children with disabilities. United Spinal could not agree more with your assessment that your "bill brings the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program's outdated limits up to speed with inflation -- a common-sense adjustment that will make a huge difference for individuals and families caring for someone with disabilities."

Please know that United Spinal will advocate for passage of H.R. 4280 in the current Congress and we truly appreciate your energies and commitment dedicated to this critical issue to assist millions of our fellow Americans.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Bennewith, MPA
Vice President, Government Relations