

# DISABILITY IS ONLY FOR THE DISABLED

## QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Regulation
- ✘ **TEAM:** Social Security Administration
- **FUMBLE:** \$1.2 Million
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** SSA should inspect what they expect

The U.S. has always been a generous nation, especially for those in greatest need. Individuals and families in need can always count on a friend, neighbor, or their fellow Americans to step up and lend a helping hand.

The Disability Insurance (DI) program of the SSA requires anyone on DI to regularly undergo a Continuing Disability Review (CDR) to ensure he or she is still disabled and qualifies for benefits. The requirement should not be different for child recipients, especially as they transition to adulthood. Recently the number of conducted reviews dropped significantly, even though the number of children qualified to receive assistance grew dramatically. From

2000 to 2013, the amount of money spent on Social Security Insurance rose from \$33 billion to \$57 billion per year.<sup>404</sup> However, from 2000 to 2011, the number of reviews fell from more than 150,000 to around 45,000 per year.<sup>405</sup>

## **RECOVERY**

Congress should work with SSA to eliminate the backlog of CDRs. It should also put in place a mandatory review for every three years a person receives assistance through SSI to ensure reviews are conducted at least that often. The safety net should be protected for the disabled by ensuring that only the truly disabled are in the program.

*[For more information, please visit:](#)*

[CATO Institute: Supplemental Security Income: A Costly and Troubled Welfare Program](#)

[GAO: Supplemental Security Income: Better Management Oversight Needed for Children's Benefits](#)