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LA002-02

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ID# 298590

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

LA 002-02

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 29, 1999

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE PHIL ENGLISH

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO INCLUDE A REASONABLE INCREASE IN THE LIMIT THAT NON-BLIND DISABLED ADULTS CAN EARN WITHOUT LOSING THEIR BENEFITS IN HIS BUDGET PROPOSAL

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION ACT CODE	ACTION DATE YY/MM/DD	DISPOSITION TYPE RESP	DISPOSITION C D	DISPOSITION COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
LARRY STEIN	ORG	99/03/29		C	99/03/29
REFERRAL NOTE:					
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET	RAA	99/03/29		C	99/8/26 MB
REFERRAL NOTE:					
		/ /			/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:					
		/ /			/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:					
		/ /			/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS: CC: BRODERICK
ADDITIONAL SIGNEES
OMB response dated Mar. 22 '99 to Cong. MB
Phil English and all signees

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 7 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 1230 ____

__ MAIL USER CODES: (A)__________ (B)__________ (C)__________

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*ACTION CODES:             *DISPOSITION              *OUTGOING             *
*                          *                         *CORRESPONDENCE:      *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION      *A-ANSWERED               *TYPE RESP=INITIALS   *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM           *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL      *         OF SIGNER   *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE          *C-COMPLETED              *     CODE = A        *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET      *S-SUSPENDED              *COMPLETED = DATE OF  *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                             *           OUTGOING  *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                             *                     *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE           *                         *                     *
*X-INTERIM REPLY           *                         *                     *
*********************************************************************
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

March 22, 1999

The Honorable Phil English
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative English:

This letter is in response to your concern regarding the amount of money that non-blind disabled adults can earn without losing their disability benefits, expressed in your letter to the President dated January 29, 1999. I am responding on his behalf. The Administration agrees wholeheartedly with you that a reasonable increase in this earnings limit is necessary. I am aware of your interest in this issue, which I believe you raised with OMB Deputy Director Sylvia Mathews during her February 4 testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means on the President's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget. As I believe Ms. Mathews has communicated to you, the President's Budget includes a $200 increase in the non-blind monthly earnings limit.

On February 16, 1999, the Social Security Administration (SSA) published a notice of a proposed rule to raise the monthly earnings limit for the non-blind disabled from $500 to $700. The first change in the earnings limit since 1990, this proposed increase will compensate for the growth in average wages since 1990. The stagnation of the earnings threshold since 1990 has, in effect, tightened the definition of disability, due solely to the effects of wage increases. The change to the earnings limit is included in the President's Budget as part of the baseline. The cost associated with this change is offset by other money-saving regulatory and administrative changes. SSA's goal is to publish the regulations by June 1, 1999.

Many people receiving Federal disability benefits want to return to work, but hesitate to do so because they fear loss of critical cash and health benefits. The proposed increase in the earnings limit will encourage work among people with disabilities, enabling them to lead more productive, self-sufficient lives. SSA estimates that the proposed change may affect as many as 250,000 beneficiaries.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

March 22, 1999

The Honorable Bill Archer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Archer:

This letter is in response to your concern regarding the amount of money that non-blind disabled adults can earn without losing their disability benefits, expressed in your letter to the President dated January 29, 1999. I am responding on his behalf. The Administration agrees wholeheartedly with you that a reasonable increase in this earnings limit is necessary. I am aware of your interest in this issue, which I believe you raised with OMB Deputy Director Sylvia Mathews during her February 4 testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means on the President's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget. As I believe Ms. Mathews has communicated to you, the President's Budget includes a $200 increase in the non-blind monthly earnings limit.

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Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

March 22, 1999

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kaptur:

This letter is in response to your concern regarding the amount of money that non-blind disabled adults can earn without losing their disability benefits, expressed in your letter to the President dated January 29, 1999. I am responding on his behalf. The Administration agrees wholeheartedly with you that a reasonable increase in this earnings limit is necessary. I am aware of your interest in this issue, which I believe you raised with OMB Deputy Director Sylvia Mathews during her February 4 testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means on the President's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget. As I believe Ms. Mathews has communicated to you, the President's Budget includes a $200 increase in the non-blind monthly earnings limit.

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Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

March 22, 1999

The Honorable Frank Mascara
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Mascara:

This letter is in response to your concern regarding the amount of money that non-blind disabled adults can earn without losing their disability benefits, expressed in your letter to the President dated January 29, 1999. I am responding on his behalf. The Administration agrees wholeheartedly with you that a reasonable increase in this earnings limit is necessary. I am aware of your interest in this issue, which I believe you raised with OMB Deputy Director Sylvia Mathews during her February 4 testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means on the President's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget. As I believe Ms. Mathews has communicated to you, the President's Budget includes a $200 increase in the non-blind monthly earnings limit.

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Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

March 22, 1999

The Honorable John Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Peterson:

This letter is in response to your concern regarding the amount of money that non-blind disabled adults can earn without losing their disability benefits, expressed in your letter to the President dated January 29, 1999. I am responding on his behalf. The Administration agrees wholeheartedly with you that a reasonable increase in this earnings limit is necessary. I am aware of your interest in this issue, which I believe you raised with OMB Deputy Director Sylvia Mathews during her February 4 testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means on the President's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget. As I believe Ms. Mathews has communicated to you, the President's Budget includes a $200 increase in the non-blind monthly earnings limit.

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Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

March 22, 1999

The Honorable Ron Klink
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Klink:

This letter is in response to your concern regarding the amount of money that non-blind disabled adults can earn without losing their disability benefits, expressed in your letter to the President dated January 29, 1999. I am responding on his behalf. The Administration agrees wholeheartedly with you that a reasonable increase in this earnings limit is necessary. I am aware of your interest in this issue, which I believe you raised with OMB Deputy Director Sylvia Mathews during her February 4 testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means on the President's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget. As I believe Ms. Mathews has communicated to you, the President's Budget includes a $200 increase in the non-blind monthly earnings limit.

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Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

March 22, 1999

The Honorable Bill Goodling
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Goodling:

This letter is in response to your concern regarding the amount of money that non-blind disabled adults can earn without losing their disability benefits, expressed in your letter to the President dated January 29, 1999. I am responding on his behalf. The Administration agrees wholeheartedly with you that a reasonable increase in this earnings limit is necessary. I am aware of your interest in this issue, which I believe you raised with OMB Deputy Director Sylvia Mathews during her February 4 testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means on the President's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget. As I believe Ms. Mathews has communicated to you, the President's Budget includes a $200 increase in the non-blind monthly earnings limit.

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Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

March 22, 1999

The Honorable James Greenwood
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Greenwood:

This letter is in response to your concern regarding the amount of money that non-blind disabled adults can earn without losing their disability benefits, expressed in your letter to the President dated January 29, 1999. I am responding on his behalf. The Administration agrees wholeheartedly with you that a reasonable increase in this earnings limit is necessary. I am aware of your interest in this issue, which I believe you raised with OMB Deputy Director Sylvia Mathews during her February 4 testimony before the Committee on Ways and Means on the President's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget. As I believe Ms. Mathews has communicated to you, the President's Budget includes a $200 increase in the non-blind monthly earnings limit.

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Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew
Director

Identical Letter Sent to:

The Honorable Phil English
The Honorable Bill Archer
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
The Honorable Frank Mascara
The Honorable John Peterson
The Honorable Ron Klink
The Honorable Bill Goodling
The Honorable James Greenwood

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 29, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

RECEIVED
FEB 11 1999

Dear President Clinton:

In your State of the Union address, you spoke of allowing disabled Americans greater access to the workplace. For this laudable objective to be achieved, one critical reform must be reflected in your budget.

We are writing to urge you to include a reasonable increase in the limit that non-blind disabled adults can earn without losing their benefits in your budget proposal. This inequity has long been overlooked and should be rectified this year.

Under current law, non-blind disabled adults who work can only earn $6,000 annually or $500 per month before losing all benefits. The blind disabled receive slightly better treatment, and their limit is also indexed for inflation.

Time and time again, disabled citizens have proven their invaluable contributions to the U.S. workforce. These individuals, like our seniors and the blind disabled, should be encouraged to work when able to do so.

This "earnings limit" is cruelly pushing disabled citizens out of the workforce. In previous years, your budget proposals have not addressed this issue. We urge you to correct this inequity in this year's budget proposal. We appreciate your consideration of this important issue and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

English
Phil English

Kaptur
Marcy Kaptur

Archer
Bill Archer

Mascara
Frank Mascara

559

January 29, 1999

Peterson

John Peterson

Klink

Goodling

Bill Goodling

James Greenwood

Greenwc

299590

LA 002-02

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 29, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

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PHOTOCOPY
MISC. HANDWRITING

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January 29, 1999

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OTOCOPY
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