FACSIMILE SHEET################

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Office of the Commissioner
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Washington, DC 20254-0001

Richard Green
Jack Smalligan
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Date: 1/28/97

Number of Pages: 15

From: **Brian D. Coyne**

Chief of Staff

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To: Diane Fortuna

Location/Organization:

Telephone Number:

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Message:

Richard

Proposed Press Briefing
on
SSI Childhood Disability Regulations

Main Participants: Shirley Chater--Commissioner Of Social Security
Susan Daniels--Associate Commissioner for Disability
Diane Garro--Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Legislative Affairs

Moderator: Phil Gambino--Press Officer

In Attendance (If Needed): Arthur Fried--General Counsel
Ken Nabali--Deputy Associate Commissioner for Disability
Judy Chesser--Deputy Commissioner for Legislative Affairs

When: To Be Determined (Date of Release of New Childhood Rules)

Where: Social Security Administration
ITC Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Why: 1) Numerous journalists (see attached) have put in requests to be notified when the new rules are to be released;

2) Based on heavy media interest--the announcement of the new rules will generate many media stories; and,

3) Because of the technical nature of the issue, an open press briefing with the disability experts involved will help to ensure an accurate understanding of the complexities of the subject.

Handouts: See Attached

Need a timeline of events
- notify Hill, notify advocates, etc.

Reporters Making Inquiries Regarding SSI Childhood Disability

Jim Adams
Courier Journal
(Louisville, KY)

Chuck Aldridge
Commerce Clearing House
ph# (202) 508-6755

Bruce Alpert
New Orleans Times Picayune
ph# (202) 383-7861

[illegible]
Washington Post

Dick Caucus
Courier Journal
(Louisville, KY)

Ken Cooper
BBC
ph# (718) 625-5671
fax (718) 625-7705

Cory Flemming
Lawyers Weekly USA
1-800-444-5297 ext 142

Sue Kinsella
Jackie Frank
Reuter's
ph# (202) 898-8391

Beth Frerking
Newhouse News Service
ph# (202) 383-7890
fax (202) 296-9537

Daisy Fried
Philadelphia City Paper
ph# (215) 732-5542

Joanne Fuchs
CNN
ph# (202) 898-7952

Dorothy Gannon
U.S. News & World Report

Chris Georges
Wall Street Journal
ph# (202) 862-9231

Rita Giordano
Philadelphia Inquirer
ph# (215) 854-4941
fax (215) 854-5099

David Hanners
St. Paul Pioneer Press
ph# (612) 228-5551
fax (612) 228-5500

Jennifer Henderson
Forum Talk Show
ph# (415) 553-2320

Pat Howe
Small Newspaper Group
ph# (202) 662-7123
fax (202) 662-7242

John Mercer
KTVN-TV Channel 2
(Reno, Nevada)
ph# (702) 861-4290

Robert Pear
New York Times
ph# (202) 862-0344
fax (202) 862-0340

Dana Peck
Florida Times Union
ph# (904) 224-2611 ext11

Vicky Que
National Public Radio
ph# (202) 414-2797

John Riskind
Columbus Dispatch
ph# (202) 347-3144
fax (202) 347-3551

Mark Squire
CNN
ph# (202) 898-7552
fax (202) 898-7923

Lisa Swasterman
NeoNatal Intensive Care Magazine
ph# (310) 828-1309

Barb Vobedja
Washington Post
ph# (202) 334-7430

Deborah Waxman
CNN
ph# (202) 898-7530

Sheryl Weinstein
Washington Times
ph# (202) 636-3189

Rich Wolf
USA Today

[illegible]

Marilyn Worker
National Journal
ph# (202) 739-8415

Tuesday, January 28, 1997
For Immediate Release

Phil Gambino / Tom Margenau
410-965-8904 Fax 410-966-9973

DRAFT

News Release

SOCIAL SECURITY

DRAFT

Statement of
Shirley S. Chater, Commissioner of Social Security
on the
Release of New Childhood Disability Guidelines to Comply With Welfare Reform Provisions

"Today we are announcing the publication of regulations containing the guidelines we will use to determine if children with disabilities meet the new definition of disability outlined in the SSI provisions of the new welfare reform law.

This has been a difficult and challenging process for SSA. We had the unenviable task of taking broadly written legal language and turning it into specific policy and operating procedures, making sure the intent of Congress is met while doing all we can to soften the impact of a potential loss of benefits to children and their families.

We have crafted policies and guidelines that, I believe, meet the letter and spirit of the law while protecting the rights of children and families. I want to thank the many dedicated Social Security managers and employees who worked long and tirelessly to make this happen. I also want to thank the ~~outside experts~~ whose advice and counsel was a valuable part of the effort.

With the implementation of these new guidelines, we estimate that about 135,000 children will no longer be eligible for SSI benefits. This is consistent with the lower-range estimates made by the Congressional Budget Office based on their interpretation of the law.

President Clinton has made ~~it very clear that children and families should not suffer as a result of this~~ legislation. ~~The President has proposed~~ that Medicaid coverage continue for children who lose their SSI benefits as a result of welfare reform, so that the medical needs of needy children and families continue to be met.

-- More --

Also, the parents or guardians for all children have the right to appeal any decision we make. And in most cases, benefits can continue throughout the appeals process, until the child's representative has had the right to present his or her case in person before an administrative law judge.

Finally, I have asked my staff to develop procedures to track the progress and development of those children who lose benefits based on these regulations. If we discover that children and families are being unfairly disadvantaged by the new law, we will recommend revisions and improvements.

We now must begin the challenging process of implementing these new guidelines. And I intend to see to it that they are implemented quickly and, more important, that they are implemented uniformly, across the country."

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fairly?

backlog
guidelines vs reg

Anything to say on outreach ??
- work w/ other federal agencies/ groups to make sure families know support/info during redetermination;
HCFA to work w/ states on outreach/ more time

A Fact Sheet on
Welfare Reform and SSI Childhood Disability

hand out

Background

The basic definition of disability for the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs states that a person must have a condition that is severe enough to prevent him or her from doing substantial work for at least 12 months -- or a condition that is expected to result in death.

SSA uses a multi-step process to decide if an adult meets this definition of disability. One of the major steps involves the use of a set of evaluation guidelines that contain a complete list of impairments for each major body system (including mental impairments) that are so severe they automatically mean a person is disabled. If a disability cannot be found on the list, or cannot be considered equal to a condition on the list, then the agency considers vocational factors to decide if a person has a condition that prevents him or her from working, thus qualifying that person for disability benefits.

Because children, especially younger children, generally do not work, the vocational steps in the disability evaluation process usually do not apply to them. So, until 1990, the final decision about a child's disability was based, for the most part, using only the listing book. Some considered this more restrictive evaluation process detrimental to the ability of many children to qualify for disability benefits. A 1990 Supreme Court decision ordered SSA to develop a set of evaluation criteria, similar to the vocational guidelines used for adults, that would consider a child's ability or inability to function in a manner similar to children of the same age. This led to a process known as an Individualized Functional Assessment (IFA). Between 1990 and 1996, the number of children eligible for SSI benefits increased from approximately 350,000 to almost one million.

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why
reduce

Due to the decision
don't blame on IFA

The Welfare Reform Act

On August 22, 1996, the Welfare Reform Act was enacted. One of its provisions changed the definition of disability for children applying for SSI benefits. The new law states a child's impairment will be considered disabling if it causes "marked and severe functional limitations." Essentially, the new law ordered SSA to discontinue the use of the IFA process and, instead, to establish a new medical standard that will more clearly delineate and identify functional disabilities in children.

NO

SSA had to take ~~broadly written~~ legal language and turn it into specific policy and operating procedures, making sure the intent of Congress was met while trying to soften the impact of a potential loss of benefits to children and their families. In addition to it's own disability policy specialists, SSA consulted with administration

NO

and congressional colleagues as well as with outside experts in the field of childhood disability. The result is a set of policies and guidelines that meet the letter and spirit of the law while protecting the rights of children and families.

The new regulations will be submitted to Congress for their review as required under the law. However, the law also allows SSA to begin processing cases prior to the expiration of the 45-day review period.

The New Disability Standard

Under the welfare reform law, a child's impairment, or combination of impairments, is disabling if it causes "marked and severe functional limitations." Congress eliminated the IFA process and clearly indicated that SSA should revise it's medical listings to incorporate a functional assessment standard.

The new rules, therefore, define levels of severity for functional limitations. They also define listing-level severity in both medical terms and terms describing functional limitations. The severity of an impairment in the listings is generally shown by "marked" limitations in either a) two broad areas of functioning, such as social functioning and personal functioning; or b) extreme limitations in one area of functioning, such as inability to walk.

The new rules added an area of "motor" functioning to ensure that limitations from physical conditions are not overlooked. The new rules also emphasize the importance of "functional equivalence" by providing clear guidelines that direct disability evaluators to consider conditions that are not necessarily defined in the listings, but are equal to a condition in the listings. Finally, a new form has been created to guide decision-makers through the new rules to ensure consistency in applying the criteria.

The new rules reflect both the letter and spirit of the new law. They provide an accurate mechanism to ensure that needy children with severe disabilities continue to qualify for SSI payments while fairly implementing the intent of Congress.

Who is affected?

SSA estimates that about 135,000 children, out of approximately 965,000 children who currently receive SSI, will no longer be eligible for monthly benefits. This is consistent with the lower-range estimates made by the Congressional Budget Office based on their interpretation of the law.

Most of the children affected by the new definition of disability can be broadly categorized as those with less severe mental impairments, such as learning disabilities

and behavioral disorders.

Implementing the new guidelines

One of SSA's highest priorities over the next several months will be to make sure that the new disability guidelines are implemented quickly and uniformly across the country.

SSA was required to notify the parents or guardians of children already getting SSI benefits who are potentially affected by the welfare reform bill by January 1, 1997. Last December, SSA sent letters to about 263,000 children who may have their cases reviewed using the new guidelines.

During early February 1997, SSA personnel will be trained on the new procedures. By mid-month, SSA will begin interviewing the parents or guardians of the children affected to get current information about their medical conditions. SSA will immediately screen out those who should not have been subject to the review and notify them that benefits will continue and that no further action is necessary.

If a review is necessary, we will obtain appropriate medical evidence to determine if the child is still disabled under the new law. The first decisions will go out in March and continue going out throughout this fiscal year.

If benefits must be stopped, the law requires that checks continue for two months beyond the effective stop date. However, the law specifies that no benefits will be stopped before July 1, 1997. Letters sent to the parents or guardians of children no longer considered disabled under the new law will explain their appeal rights, including the fact that benefits can continue during the appeals process.

Administration Safeguards to Ease the Transition for Families

President Clinton has made it very clear that children and families should not suffer as a result of this legislation. The President has proposed that Medicaid coverage continue to children who lose their SSI benefits as a result of welfare reform, so that the medical needs of needy children and families continue to be met.

In addition, SSA is working on procedures to track the progress and development of those children who lose benefits based on these regulations. If the agency discovers that children and families are being unfairly disadvantaged by the new law, it will recommend revisions and improvements.

Source: SSA Press Office
Last updated: 1/28/97

NEW RULES FOR CHILDREN

Stricter Eligibility Standard

who's this for

- Definition changed to "marked and severe functional limitations"
- Individual Functional Assessment (IFA) deleted
- Maladaptive behavior deleted from the listings as a separate area of functioning
- Expanded guidance in evaluating functional equivalency — chronic?
- Increased emphasis on motor skill area of functioning
- Development of a form to document and rationalize determinations

Continuing Disability Review Rules

- Standard of review changed to comply with new definition
- Reviews required every 3 years
- Reviews required at 1 year of age for low birth weight babies
- Payees are required to present evidence that children are receiving appropriate treatment, if available

Age 18 Redeterminations

- Requirement to reassess a child's eligibility for benefits using the adult standard when the child reaches age 18

Examples of Children Eligible Under the New Standard

- La'Shaira C., 6 years old, has been diagnosed with diabetes. Since she was 22 months old, La'Shaira has been in danger of insulin rejection. Her mother must check her daughter's blood sugar 4 times a day, give her daughter 3 insulin shots a day, regulate her special diet, and monitor her blood sugar. Three days a week, the school nurse tests La'Shaira's blood sugar. On the other two days, her mother must do it. Her participation in social activities are restricted by her condition.

- Hunter S., 18 months old, suffers from Harlequin Ichthyosis, a rare skin disease. It is a genetic disorder that is present in just 1 to 5 of every 5 million babies born in the United States each year. Hunter's skin grows so fast it cannot shed effectively. Her body has trouble regulating its temperature. The extra skin can tighten across her abdomen and chest, restricting her breathing. She also has digestive problems that interfere with her getting enough nutrition. Once a week, medical personnel come to the house to evaluate Hunter's progress. Hunter's condition requires 24 hour maintenance. She gets more than 15 topical medications to keep her skin from becoming infected or too dry. A variety of therapists work with Hunter to improve her coordination, dexterity, and other physical motions.

- Neville B., 11 years old, has Down's Syndrome. He has already undergone two major surgeries, both heart and brain surgery. He has also been hospitalized for a number of infectious diseases.

- Jessica R., 3 years old, was born with chromosome abnormalities. She does not talk or walk. She has undergone six surgeries to repair holes in her heart and a cleft palate. She is fed through a feeding tube.

- Alexcya M., 20 months old, suffers from cerebral atrophy. Her brain has not grown to normal size and her weight is well below normal for a child her age. She does not walk or talk yet. She requires frequent doctor visits and nearly constant supervision. Alexcya requires special formula milk to help her grow and toys that aid in her motor coordination.

- Jessica G., 5-1/2 years old, suffers from autism. She operates at the level of a normal 3 year old because of intensive therapy. Her mental disorder impairs her communication skills, and gives her mild seizures. She has only been talking for a year.

Examples of Children Ineligible Under the New Standard

- At age 7, Helen S.'s wrists are often swollen from juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and occasionally painful. She takes care of her own dressing, eating and toileting, but cannot move quickly when in pain. She can usually run, but not when she is having a painful day, at which time she tries not to walk too far. She has lots of friends and does well in school.

- At age 6, Frank J.'s attention deficit hyperactivity disorder causes him some difficulty in maintaining relationships with children of his own age, but he relates reasonably well with adults (moderate social limitation). He is very shy, but sometimes gets into fights with other children. He has difficulty in completing some tasks and needs close supervision.

- Henry W. is a 9 year old boy who, due to his attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, does not get along with several of his classmates, and consequently gets in trouble. However, he has good relationships with most of the kids he knows. He relates reasonably well with adults, although it takes him awhile to warm up. He needs supervision to complete complex tasks, but sticks with schoolwork and chores. He sometimes forgets certain tasks in bathing or dressing but needs only a simple reminder. He can be on his own in familiar places and situations.

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Talking Points

Welfare Reform and New Regulations Published Today Regarding Supplemental Security Income Payments for Disabled Children

ND hard out

Background

One provision of the Welfare Reform law passed last year changed the definition of disability for children applying for SSI payments. Essentially, the new law ordered SSA to discontinue the use of an individualized functional assessment (IFA) process established after a ~~landmark~~ 1990 Zebley Supreme Court decision and, instead, establish a new medical standard that will more clearly delineate and identify functional disabilities in children. This provision was included in welfare reform because Congress was concerned about the rapid growth in the program as the number of children on the benefit rolls grew from 350,000 to 965,000 between 1990 and 1996.

Following the law's passage, SSA had to take broadly written legal language and turn it into specific policy and operating procedures, making sure the intent of Congress to tighten eligibility standards was met while ensuring that severely disabled children and their families would be protected under the new law. Today, SSA published in the Federal Register the new rules for determining disability for children.

Key Points

--It is my understanding that this was a very difficult and challenging process for SSA but the final outcome is policy and guidelines that meet the letter of the law (a congressionally-mandated stricter definition of disability for children) and the spirit of the law (protecting the rights of disabled children and their families).

--Out of 935,000 disabled children currently receiving benefits, SSA estimates that about 135,000 children will potentially lose monthly benefits that average about $425 per month. This number is consistent with the lower-range estimates made by the Congressional Budget Office based on their interpretation of the law. I understand that most of those affected can be broadly categorized as children with less severe mental impairments, such as learning disabilities or behavioral disorders.

--President Clinton has made it very clear that children and families should not suffer as a result of this legislation. Towards this end, the President has proposed that Medicaid coverage continue for children who lose their SSI benefits as a result of welfare reform, so that the medical needs of needy children and families continue to be met. In addition, the Social Security Administration is going to track the progress and development of those children who lose benefits based on these regulations. If

Directly address Daschle/Chafee?

they discover that children and families are being unfairly disadvantaged by the new law, they will recommend to the President any revisions and improvements that may be needed to the law.

--SSA has informed the President that they are committed to implementing the new rules expeditiously and, more importantly, in a uniform and consistent manner across the U.S. Parents or guardians of affected children will have the right to appeal any decision SSA makes and, in most cases, benefits can continue throughout the appeals process.

Possible Questions and Answers

By statute, the new eligibility standard for disabled children was to be published in the Federal Register by 11/22/96. Why did it take so long to issue these regulations?

A: Because these new rules will have a direct impact on thousands of low-income disabled children, it was essential that SSA take enough time to ensure that the new guidelines meet both the letter and spirit of the law and at the same time protect the SSI eligibility for severely disabled children.

Q: How many disabled children will loose monthly payments? Who are the children that will loose benefits?

A: It is estimated that out of 965,000 children currently on the rolls, about 135,000 children will no longer be eligible for SSI payments. (This number was in the low-range of the CBO estimates developed when the bill was passed by Congress.) Basically, these are children who were allowed benefits based on the individualized functional assessment (IFA) step that was eliminated by the welfare reform law and many can be broadly categorized as children with less severe mental impairments, such as learning disabilities and behavioral disorders.

Q: Was the President involved in the decision of the new disability standard?

A: Since the passage of welfare reform, OMB and the Domestic Policy Council have been working with agency officials to ensure that all affected agencies implement the new law consistently and properly. As a result, SSA consulted with the White House in establishing the new standard, particularly to discuss policy and legal issues that arose. However, as the agency head, the Commissioner of Social Security has made the final decision on behalf of the President. The President fully supports that decision.

Q: How much money will be saved by the new rules? Was the budget a major consideration in establishing the new rules?

A: I understand that program savings of about $4.6 billion is estimated in the 6-year period starting with 1997. SSA has stated that budget implications were not a major consideration in establishing the new rules. However, SSA did rely on the Statute itself as well as its legislative history.

Q: The advocates are arguing that the new standard is too strict and that Congress gave the agency much leeway in the Statute to establish a more lenient standard? Why such a strict interpretation?

A: With all due respects for the advocacy community, it is my understanding that it was very clear from the welfare reform law and the legislative history that Congress meant to establish a strict severity standard in the new law. These new rules meet that legislative intent while including many additional elements to ensure that severely disabled children continue to be eligible for benefits.

Q. Is the President concerned about the affect of the new law on low-income disabled children? If so, what is he going to do about it?

A: Yes, the President is concerned and has taken numerous steps to limit any adverse consequences of the law. First, while meeting congressional intent, SSA developed rules that soften the impact of the law on disabled children. (The 135,000 number of expected benefit terminations was in the low range of CBO estimates for the law.) Second, the President has proposed that Medicaid coverage continue for children who loose SSI benefits as a result of welfare reform, so that the medical needs of families continue to be met. Third, SSA will be tracking the progress and development of those children that loose benefits based on the new law. If they discover that children and families are being unfairly disadvantaged, SSA will recommend to the President any revisions or improvements needing legislation.

Potential Media Questions Regarding New Childhood Disability Regulations

In layperson terms, what are the new guidelines? How do they differ from the old rules that were used prior to the new law?

How did we incorporate functional assessments into the new rules? How does it differ from the IFA that was eliminated by the new law?

How many disabled children will be affected and loose monthly payments?

(If the number appears high)....Were we trying to reach a certain number of terminations for budgetary reasons?

If the number appears low)....Did we cave in to special interests and fail to implement the law as intended by the Congress?

How much of a role did the White House have in the development of the guidelines? How about Jonathan Stein and other advocates?

Was the President involved in the decision? If so, how so? If not, why not?

advised of SSA's determinations

Why did it take us so long?

How many cases must SSA review? How long will it take us to review the cases of children affected? When will they lose benefits?

For kids who lose SSI, will they also lose Medicaid? Other services?

Where can they turn for help if they need money?

How will SSA ensure that the new rules are implemented correctly and in a uniform manner across the country?

How many backlogged intitial cases are pending at the agency? ... and how long will it take SSA to work them off? Since many have waited for months, will you expedite the decisions?

The law states SSA must wait 45 days to implement the new rules while Congress has an opportunity to review them. Will SSA abide by the law? Wouldn't that cause further hardship for many disabled children who have already been waiting for so long for SSA to establish the new rules?

Couldn't you have done
Who are those kids

timeline!

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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(410) 965-3120

TO	FROM
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TELEPHONE NUMBER	TELEPHONE NUMBER
FAX NUMBER 202/456-7431	FAX NUMBER (410) 966-1463

REMARKS:

COVER AND 6 PAGES

~~Wednesday~~, January ~~22~~, 1997
For Immediate Release

Phil Gambino / Tom Margenau
410-965-8904 Fax 410-966-9973

DRAFT

News Release

DRAFT

SOCIAL SECURITY

Statement of
Shirley S. Chater, Commissioner of Social Security
on the
Release of New Childhood Disability Guidelines to Comply With Welfare Reform Provisions

"Today we are announcing the publication of regulations containing the guidelines we will use to determine if children with disabilities meet the new definition of disability outlined in the SSI provisions of the new welfare reform law.

This has been a difficult and challenging process for SSA. We had the unenviable task of taking broadly written legal language and turning it into specific policy and operating procedures, making sure the intent of Congress is met while doing all we can to soften the impact of a potential loss of benefits to children and their families.

But we have accomplished our mission. We have crafted policies and guidelines that, I believe, meet the letter and spirit of the law while protecting the rights of children and families. I want to thank the many dedicated Social Security managers and employees who worked long and tirelessly to make this happen. I also want to thank the outside experts whose advice and counsel was a valuable part of the effort.

Who?

With the implementation of these new guidelines, we estimate that about 135,000 children will no longer be eligible for SSI benefits. This is consistent with the lower-range estimates made by the Congressional Budget Office based on their interpretation of the law.

President Clinton has made it very clear that children and families should not suffer as a result of this legislation. Already, for example, the President has proposed that Medicaid coverage continue for children who lose their SSI benefits as a result of welfare reform, so that the medical needs of needy children and families continue to be met.

-- More --

Announce it here

The new regulations will be submitted to Congress for their review as required under the law. However, the law also allows SSA to begin processing cases prior to the expiration of the 45-day review period.

Who is affected?

SSA estimates that about 135,000 children, out of approximately 965,000 children who currently receive SSI, will no longer be eligible for monthly benefits. This is consistent with the lower-range estimates made by the Congressional Budget Office based on their interpretation of the law.

In addition, since the welfare reform law passed last August, SSA has been holding claims filed on behalf of children who might be affected by the new rulings. There are about 160,000 new claims pending that can be processed now that regulations have been published.

Most of the children affected by the new definition of disability can be broadly categorized as those with less severe mental impairments, such as learning disabilities and behavioral disorders.

Implementing the new guidelines

One of SSA's highest priorities over the next several months will be to make sure that the new disability guidelines are implemented quickly and uniformly across the country.

Current beneficiaries

SSA was required to notify the parents or guardians of children already getting SSI benefits who are potentially affected by the welfare reform bill by January 1, 1997. Last December, SSA sent letters to about 263,000 children who may have their cases reviewed using the new guidelines.

During early February 1997, SSA personnel will be trained on the new procedures. By mid-month, SSA will begin interviewing the parents or guardians of the children affected to get current information about their medical conditions. SSA will immediately screen out those who should not have been subject to the review and notify them that benefits will continue and that no further action is necessary.

If a review is necessary, we will obtain appropriate medical evidence to determine if the child is still disabled under the new law. The first decisions will go out in March and continue going out through (what date).

If benefits must be stopped, the law requires that checks continue for two months beyond the effective stop date. However, the law specifies that no benefits will be stopped before July 1, 1997. Letters sent to the parents or guardians of children no longer considered disabled under the new law will explain their appeal rights, including the fact that benefits can continue during the appeals process.

Pending claims
As stated earlier, approximately 160,000 claims filed since the new law was enacted are potentially affected by the new guidelines. In most cases, we already asked the parents/guardians of these children to provide an up-to-date medical history, so processing under the new guidelines should proceed quickly, with the first decisions expected in early March.

We expect to complete the initial reviews of the 265,000 potentially affected current beneficiaries and the 160,000 new claims by _____. Of course, any appeals filed will take longer to process.

Upcoming developments
President Clinton has made it very clear that children and families should not suffer as a result of this legislation. He has proposed that Medicaid coverage continue to children who lose their SSI benefits as a result of welfare reform, so that the medical needs of needy children and families continue to be met.

In addition SSA is working on procedures to track the progress and development of those children who lose benefits based on these regulations. If the agency discovers that children and families are being unfairly disadvantaged by the new law, it will recommend revisions and improvements.

Source: SSA Press Office
Last updated: 1/27/97

- Say appeals
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- Medicaid

Also, the parents or guardians for all children have the right to appeal any decision we make. And in most cases, benefits can continue throughout the appeals process, until the child's representative has had the right to present his or her case in person before an administrative law judge.

Finally, I have asked my staff to develop procedures to track the progress and development of those children who lose benefits based on these regulations. If we discover that children and families are being unfairly disadvantaged by the new law, we will recommend revisions and improvements.

We now must begin the challenging process of implementing these new guidelines. And I intend to see to it that they are implemented quickly and, more important, that they are implemented uniformly, across the country."

# # #

DRAFT DRAFT

A Factsheet on
Welfare Reform and SSI Childhood Disability

Background

The basic definition of disability for the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs states that a person must have a condition that is severe enough to prevent him or her from doing substantial work for at least 12 months -- or a condition that is expected to result in death.

SSA uses a multi-step process to decide if an adult meets this definition of disability. One of the major steps involves the use of a set of evaluation guidelines that contain a complete list of impairments for each major body system (including mental impairments) that are so severe they automatically mean a person is disabled. If a disability cannot be found on the list, or cannot be considered equal to a condition on the list, then the agency considers vocational factors to decide if a person has a condition that prevents him or her from working, thus qualifying that person for disability benefits.

Because children, especially younger children, generally do not work, the vocational steps in the disability evaluation process usually do not apply to them. So, until 1990, the final decision about a child's disability was based, for the most part, using only the listing book. Some considered this more restrictive evaluation process detrimental to the ability of many children to qualify for disability benefits. A 1990 Supreme Court decision ordered SSA to develop a set of evaluation criteria, similar to the vocational guidelines used for adults, that would consider a child's ability or inability to function in a manner similar to children of the same age. This led to a process known as an Individualized Functional Assessment. Between 1990 and 1996, the number of children eligible for SSI benefits increased from approximately 350,000 to almost one million.

The Welfare Reform Act

On August 22, 1996, the Welfare Reform Act was enacted. One of its provisions changed the definition of disability for children applying for SSI benefits. The new law states a child's impairment will be considered disabling if it causes "marked and severe functional limitations." Essentially, the new law ordered SSA to discontinue the use of the IFA process and, instead, to broaden the listing book to more clearly delineate and identify functional disabilities in children.

SSA had to take broadly written legal language and turn it into specific policy and operating procedures, making sure the intent of Congress was met while trying to soften the impact of a potential loss of benefits to children and their families. In addition to it's own disability policy specialists, SSA consulted with administration and congressional colleagues as well as with outside experts in the field of childhood disability. The result is a set of policies and guidelines that meet the letter and spirit of the law while protecting the rights of children and families.

NEW RULES FOR CHILDREN

Stricter Eligibility Standard

- Definition changed to "marked and severe functional limitations"
- Individual Functional Assessment (IFA) deleted
- Maladaptive behavior deleted from the listings as a separate area of functioning
- Expanded guidance in evaluating functional equivalency
- Increased emphasis on motor skill area of functioning
- Development of a form to document and rationalize determinations

Continuing Disability Review Rules

- Standard of review changed to comply with new definition
- Reviews required every 3 years
- Reviews required at 1 year of age for low birth weight babies
- Payees are required to present evidence that children are receiving appropriate treatment, if available

Age 18 Redeterminations

- Requirement to reassess a child's eligibility for benefits using the adult standard when the child reaches age 18

SOCIAL SECURITY

Office of the Commissioner

February 7, 1997

TO: DIANA FORTUNA

FR: Brian Coyne

RE: Childhood Disability

FYI. Attached are copies of the major dailies on Childhood Disability.

Attachments

New Welfare Rules to End Aid To 135,000 Disabled Children

Social Security Issues Regulations Interpreting Law

By Barbara Vobejda
Washington Post Staff Writer

At least 135,000 children who receive federal cash assistance because they are characterized as disabled will be denied benefits under the welfare law enacted in August, the Clinton administration announced yesterday.

Federal officials, releasing long-awaited regulations interpreting one of the most controversial provisions of the new welfare measure, said benefits no longer will go to children who, for example, suffer from hyperactivity that affects schoolwork and behavior, certain learning disabilities, or rheumatoid arthritis that limits physical movement and social interaction.

But advocates for disabled children said the rules will also deny assistance to those with much more severe problems. They cited the example of an 8-year-old who has an IQ of 75, suffers from depression and requires constant supervision because of behavioral problems.

The final rules, released yesterday by the Social Security Administration, also will deny benefits over the next five years to an estimated 45,000 children not on the rolls now but who would have qualified under the old law.

The new and much stricter standards stem from Congress's determination to tighten access to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) children's disability program, which provides cash averaging $424 a month and access to Medicaid health coverage to eligible children.

The issue has presented a dilemma to the Clinton administration, which did not push for the strict SSI provisions when the welfare measure was before Congress last year, but was required to interpret the language in the midst of strong lobbying from advocates urging that as few children as possible be removed from the rolls.

The administration missed its November deadline for issuing the rules, which were vetted by the White House and the Office of Management and Budget, then released yesterday on a day when the president's budget overpowers virtually all other news stories.

"The law is the law," said Social Security Commissioner Shirley Chater in announcing the regulations.

Chater and other officials implied that the rules could have been harsher. The Congressional Budget Office, for example, at one point had estimated that the number of children who may lose benefits could surpass 200,000. Chater also sought to offer some reassurances, saying children with severe disabilities "who deserve benefits will continue to receive those benefits."

But parents of many children now receiving benefits fear they could soon lose assistance that has allowed them medical care, helped them purchase special equipment and permitted one parent to stay home rather than work.

Charol Jamison, a Philadelphia mother whose 5-year-old son, Eugene, suffers from asthma, a speech impairment and a developmental disorder, said he receives nearly $500 a month in benefits. But her son was granted eligibility to the program under a provision of the old law that has been eliminated.

His mother has been unable to work full time in her job as a mental health counselor because she has to leave frequently to administer breathing treatments to her son. "I couldn't depend on anybody" at Eugene's school to provide the treatments, she said. He attends half-day kindergarten.

It is unclear whether he will retain benefits, but his case will be reviewed in the coming months. If he is denied benefits, his mother said, "I'd probably have to end up taking a second job."

President Clinton has proposed that children who lose SSI benefits be allowed to retain Medicaid, but there is no assurance that Congress will adopt that plan.

The children's disability program had grown dramatically in recent years, from 350,000 youngsters to more than 965,000 since 1990. And several members of Congress, citing that growth, and media reports that parents were coaching their children to fake disabilities, vowed to tighten eligibility standards.

Rep. Jim McCrery (R-La.), a leading critic of the program, said yesterday the new regulations "appear to be in keeping with the intent of the legislation." But, he added, the "numbers . . . are disappointing" because the 135,000 figure falls short of the higher CBO estimates.

Advocates for disabled children reacted to the new rules with dismay. "This is overkill," said Jonathan Stein, a Philadelphia attorney who has been a leading advocate for the program. "The bill never mandated that this many kids must be terminated."

Marty Ford, assistant director of The Arc, an advocacy group, said many parents are afraid that if they lose the benefits they will be unable to care for their disabled children, who may then have to be placed in foster care or an institution.

"These kids [who will lose benefits] are still severely disabled and come from families who are very poor," she said.

Clinton vetoed an earlier version of the welfare bill that would have been much harsher, denying SSI cash benefits to an estimated 700,000 children.

135,000 Children to Be Struck From Disability Benefit Rolls

By ROBERT PEAR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 — The Clinton Administration today issued new rules that it said would end disability benefits for 135,000 poor children, 14 percent of all children who now receive those benefits under the Supplemental Security Income program.

The Administration said the rules would also deny benefits to 45,000 disabled children who are not now on the rolls but would otherwise have qualified for assistance in the next five years. Thus, it said, a total of 180,000 children will be affected.

At the same time, President Clinton asked Congress for $21 billion over five years to restore various Government benefits for legal immigrants, to reverse cuts in the food stamp program and to create jobs for welfare recipients. These proposals would restore slightly more than 40 percent of the money that is to be saved from 1998 through 2002 as a result of the new welfare law.

It is unclear how hard Mr. Clinton will press for changes in the welfare law as he negotiates with Congressional Republicans on a plan to balance the Federal budget by 2002. Most Republicans and some Democrats say Congress should wait to see the effects of the law before rewriting it.

The new Supplemental Security Income rules, issued in tandem with Mr. Clinton's budget today, set standards to be used in evaluating disabilities under the new law, which allows disability benefits only for people with "severe functional limitations."

Advocates for the disabled said the rules were more restrictive than necessary. But Administration officials said even more disabled children would have lost benefits under early versions of the welfare legislation that were vetoed by Mr. Clinton.

Susan M. Daniels, an Associate Commissioner of Social Security, said the new rules would save the Federal Government $4.8 billion over five years. In the last fiscal year, the Government spent $26 billion on the Supplemental Security Income program, including a little more than $5 billion for children. Benefits for a child average $424 a month.

Most of the children being denied benefits have mental impairments or behavioral problems. Ms. Daniels said they had "more mild or less severe impairments."

It is "really a matter of degree," she said.

Social Security officials gave examples of how the new rules would affect various children. A child with attention deficit disorder, with a verbal I.Q. score of 75 or with swollen wrists resulting from rheumatoid arthritis will probably lose benefits, they said. In contrast, they said, children with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy or autism might still qualify, as would children with diabetes requiring insulin shots three times a day. But officials said each case would be evaluated carefully.

Martha E. Ford, a lobbyist for the Arc, formerly the Association for Retarded Citizens, said she was "deeply disappointed" with the rules.

"Today's decision appears to have been driven by budget targets," Ms. Ford said, "rather than by what is in the best interest of the children."

Social service workers will begin interviewing parents of the affected children next month. The first decisions will be made in March. Benefits will be stopped in July, at the earliest.

Mr. Clinton is asking Congress to guarantee continued Medicaid coverage of all children who lose disability benefits because of the new standards. About 50,000 of them would otherwise lose Medicaid.

In a separate initiative, the President asked Congress today to restore disability benefits to some legal immigrants who have not become citizens, including those who became disabled after entering the United States.

As for the President's food stamp proposals, they would restore $3.3 billion of the $21 billion cut from the program from 1998 through 2002 by the new welfare law. Mr. Clinton would, for example, ease food stamp restrictions placed on people who are 18 to 50 years old, have no dependents and are not working.

The President would also increase food stamp benefits for people who spend large amounts of their income on housing. He said the welfare law forced many of them to "choose between paying the rent and eating."

Edward M. Cooney, deputy director of the Food Research and Action Center, an advocacy group for low-income families, said, "The President's proposals go in the right direction, but we will urge Congress to go further."

135,000 will lose disability benefits

By Richard Wolf
USA TODAY

About 135,000 children will lose federal disability benefits this year under rules issued Thursday by the Clinton administration.

The guidelines, required by last year's welfare reform law, also will prevent about 45,000 children from qualifying during the next five years. The reductions will save $4.8 billion by 2002.

Currently, 965,000 low-income children receive cash grants averaging $424 a month under the Supplemental Security Income program. Congress ordered tougher eligibility standards last year after reports that some children were coached to fake behavioral problems to receive "crazy checks."

Several studies found little evidence of fraud. But President Clinton decided to drop "those children with the more mild impairments," Social Security Commissioner Shirley Chater said, such as attention disorders and learning disabilities.

"Kids who are going to be kicked off the rolls are still severely disabled," said Marty Ford of The Arc, a group that lobbies on behalf of the mentally retarded. But Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., a critic of the program, said Clinton acted "within the spirit of the legislation."

Page 12A : Friday, February 7, 1997 : The Sun oc (Baltimore, MD)

New rules to end disability aid for 135,000 poor children

Outraged critics say move is just to save money

By JOHN B. O'DONNELL
SUN NATIONAL STAFF

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has adopted regulations that will end disability checks for an estimated 135,000 poor children, outraging children's advocates who contend that the move was driven simply by an effort to save money.

At a briefing yesterday on the fiscal 1998 budget, outgoing Social Security Commissioner Shirley S. Chater announced that she had signed the regulations, which set a higher standard for children to qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits. The new rules were required by the welfare overhaul legislation that President Clinton signed into law last year.

"This is overkill," fumed Jonathan Stein, a Philadelphia legal aid lawyer who won a 1990 Supreme Court case that contributed to a tripling of the children's SSI rolls over five years.

"Congress never meant for this many kids to be cut off. They've misread Congress, and they're going to hurt an awful lot of needy kids who the average congressman, and the average man on the street, would say is disabled."

Marty Ford, an official of The Arc, an advocacy group for the mentally retarded, said: "This decision appears to have been driven by budget targets, rather than by what is in the best interest of the children involved."

The new regulations are expected to save $4.6 billion over six years.

But Rep. Jim McCrery, a Louisiana Republican who led the effort to tighten eligibility for children who receive disability aid, sounded satisfied.

"On the face of it, the regulations don't look bad at all," he said. "It looks like they are pretty much what we wanted."

Nevertheless, McCrery said he was disappointed by the administration's estimate of 135,000 children who will lose benefits. McCrery said the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office expected it to be as high as 185,000.

Social Security officials insisted that their regulations were required by the new law. At yesterday's briefing, they described the administration's proposals to restore SSI benefits to 350,000 legal immigrants who are expected to lose benefits under the welfare law. Of the 900,000 immigrants now on the SSI rolls, the welfare law would drop about 500,000.

Among those who would retain benefits under the latest proposals, the largest bloc are those who have become blind or disabled since coming to the United States.

Social Security officials also announced plans for the testing of a new effort to encourage disability beneficiaries to return to work.

"Currently, less than 1 percent of the approximately 6 million disability recipients successfully return to work each year," Daniels said as she sketched out the plan to give recipients vouchers for vocational rehabilitation.

But most of the focus yesterday was on children. About 1 million children collect SSI benefits, averaging more than $430 a month. The Republican-led Congress moved to tighten eligibility standards for children after enrollment had tripled over five years. There were widespread allegations that children with minor problems, including poor behavior, had been added to the rolls.

The surge in enrollment followed a 1990 Supreme Court decision that forced Social Security to adopt a subjective — and, critics say, too liberal — analysis of children who did not qualify under the agency's list of disabling conditions.

But the welfare law forced Social Security to abandon that test, which had been the path to benefits for 300,000 children.

Yesterday, agency officials described a stricter, but still subjective evaluation.

"What we have done in these regulations is move the marker a little bit," said Susan M. Daniels, an associate commissioner. "The difference here is really a matter of severity" in the child's disability.

The 265,000 current SSI recipients who won benefits through the former test were warned in November that they would be re-evaluated once new regulations were in place. Officials expect 135,000 of the them, most of them with mental or behavioral problems, to lose their monthly checks.

Since President Clinton signed the welfare law in August, Social Security has continued to accept applications from children. Some severely disabled children have won benefits, and others deemed clearly not disabled have been turned down.

The the agency has delayed action on 160,000 of the applicants

GOP Attacks Welfare Plan, While Advocates Worry

By CHRISTOPHER GEORGES
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's $21.6 billion welfare spending package has finally silenced his critics on the left — at least for today.

"He's taken an important step," says Deborah Weinstein, a senior official at the Children's Defense Fund. But, she quickly adds, "a lot still needs to be done."

On the other hand, Republicans, with whom Mr. Clinton joined forces last summer to produce the landmark welfare overhaul, are now grumbling. "This is an attempt by the president to turn back the clock on welfare reform," says Missouri Rep. James Talent, a

The Clinton Budget

See JOURNAL, Next Page

"Fixing" Welfare Overhaul

CLINTON'S NEW PROPOSALS	COST OVER FIVE YEARS
FOOD STAMPS: restore funds cut by welfare reform	$3.3 billion
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME: restore benefits for some immigrants	$9.7 billion
MEDICAID: continue coverage for immigrant children who lose SSI	$4.9 billion
CHALLENGE GRANTS: for states and cities who create jobs for the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients	$3.0 billion
TAX CREDIT: $5,000 credit for employers who hire welfare recipients	$0.5 billion
TRANSPORTATION: provide subsidies to help transport welfare recipients to jobs and training	$0.1 billion

From JOURNAL, Prevous Page

GOP welfare leader.

Mr. Talent's disappointment is prompted by both the size and specifics of Mr. Clinton's welfare request. The plan, which makes good on all the president's fix-it promises, would restore $3 billion in funding for jobless food-stamp recipients and nearly $14 billion for legal immigrants, who together shouldered most of the $55 billion in five-year savings. The president also proposes $3 billion in new "welfare-to-work" incentives to encourage employers to hire welfare recipients through tax subsidies and other inducements.

Some Disabled Children Cut Off

Though the administration yesterday added spending in most welfare areas, it was forced to make cuts in one program: It released new regulations that will cut off benefits to 135,000 poor disabled children — out of 950,000 who qualify — and save $4.8 billion over five years. The president had been ordered by Congress, as part of the welfare law, to significantly trim Supplemental Security Income for Disabled Children to include only the severely disabled.

Essentially, the cuts target children with mild mental impairments and nondebilitating physical disorders, though children with two mildly severe ailments remain eligible. For example, a child who would no longer qualify might suffer from mild rheumatoid arthritis and be limited in play activities, but have the ability to eat and dress without help. Also, as many as 50,000 mildly mentally retarded children will lose monthly benefits, which average about $450 for all recipients. Administration officials stressed that the decision to cut off so many of the disabled children was made reluctantly.

But looking ahead, advocates for the poor fret that the president's willingness to restore aid to legal immigrants and food-stamp recipients, and to help beneficiaries seeking work, could evaporate in expected budget negotiations. "I'm skeptical he'll stay with it," says former administration welfare official Wendell Primus, who resigned last year in protest of program cuts. They fear, for example, the president would settle for agreement with Republicans on the welfare-to-work provisions and then back down on the controversial food-stamp and immigrant restorations.

Their skepticism is driven not only by the president's past record — welfare advocates cite his willingness to sign the bill last year after first opposing it — but the recent departure from the White House of voices sympathetic to their cause, in particular former chief-of-staff Leon Panetta.

"Without him, we have to make our case from scratch," says Ed Cooney, vice president of the Food Research and Action Center. His organization, he adds, now turns more frequently to the Agriculture Department. For example, last year Mr. Panetta played a key role in talks with Republicans in softening food-stamp cuts and delaying benefit cutoffs for legal immigrants.

'You Made a Promise'

Welfare proponents also bemoan the recent departures of presidential advisers George Stephanopoulos and Harold Ickes. They point, for example, to a recent struggle to gain support of the new White House staff on immigration funding. The administration had sought to limit its legal-immigrant proposals to simply a delay in the cutoff date — as opposed to billions of dollars in new spending. "We argued with them for a month: 'You made a promise and we voted for you. . . . How dare you reconsider,' " says a Washington lobbyist for legal immigrants, who asked to remain unidentified. "In the end they went along, but reluctantly."

Welfare proponents also worry that Mr. Clinton's efforts to peel back the welfare bill's most restrictive provisions are now over. "At some point, I hope he will propose more moderation, but frankly I don't think it will occur," says Robert Greenstein, who heads the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal advocacy group. Even if he does, Republicans would likely stand in the way. Odds of securing even parts of the current Clinton proposals will be a struggle. Here's how the upcoming debate on the current proposals shapes up:

• **IMMIGRANTS**: Mr. Clinton's plan specifically seeks to restore funding to hundreds of thousands of legal immigrants - primarily Medicaid children, the disabled and food-stamp recipients. "There is no way in the world we are going to do this," says Senate Majority Whip Don Nickles of Oklahoma. Still, some GOP welfare leaders, such as Florida Rep. Clay Shaw, have suggested in recent days the possibility of a several-billion-dollar lump-sum block grant to the states solely for legal immigrants. Even Sen. Nickles says he's "not willing to close the door and say no" to that idea. Still, advocates for the poor frown on the notion, saying there is no guarantee states would use it to help the neediest immigrants.

• **FOOD STAMPS**: Last year's welfare bill cut nearly $27 billion in food-stamp funding over five years, with about $8.5 billion from recipients without dependent children, who would be cut off after three months without a job. Mr. Clinton's budget would allow these jobless adults six months of aid, as well as assistance if looking for a job. On the other hand, it would deny benefits after six months to those who are offered, but decline, work.

"Now he's gone too far," says GOP Rep. Bob Ney of Ohio, a lead author of the welfare bill's food-stamp restrictions. Still, Mr. Ney and other Republicans say they are willing to accept some modifications, such as agreeing to the president's proposal to create 380,000 workfare slots for food-stamp recipients who can't find private-sector jobs.

• **JOBS**: President Clinton's proposal to spend $3.6 billion to encourage employers to hire beneficiaries through empowerment zones, tax incentives and the like, has been greeted warmly by most Republicans and should have little trouble passing Congress.

While the politics are secure, the policy is in doubt. There is little evidence that such incentives have worked in the past, although administration officials say the new money will allow states to experiment to try to get it right. On the other hand, the subsidies make political sense for Democrats, as the $3.6 billion would be filtered over three years through more than 100 city and county governments. That's sure to please a key Democratic constituency — mayors and county officials. Republicans, too, benefit. Spreading large sums to dozens of localities appeals to members of Congress. In addition, the program would ultimately be distributing welfare money to businesses.

LOS ANGELES TIMES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1997

Welfare Law Will Exclude 135,000 Disabled Children

By ROBERT A. ROSENBLATT and MELISSA HEALY
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

WASHINGTON—About 135,000 children with mental or physical problems whose families receive disability payments will lose their benefits under the welfare reform law, the Social Security Administration announced Thursday.

Although the government has known since last year that children with those problems will lose their benefits, the announcement provided the first solid estimate of the number that will be affected.

Most of those being cut from the rolls have mental or emotional problems such as hyperactivity, but will no longer be considered eligible under new, tougher rules imposed by the welfare legislation.

The Social Security Administration said it has adopted new eligibility standards and is mailing notices to the families of 280,000 disabled children telling them their cases will be reviewed.

The agency forecast that about 135,000 of those children will be dropped from the rolls. Children are eligible for federal disability payments under the new law if they have "marked and severe" limitations.

For example, a 6-year-old girl with cerebral palsy who wears leg braces and whose speech is hard to understand can keep drawing benefits. But a 9-year-old with attention deficit hyperactivity who lags two years behind his age group in school and gets in trouble with classmates and teachers will become ineligible.

The impact "will be devastating" on families who depend on the disability checks for paying basic bills for food, clothing and shelter, predicted Marty Ford of ARC, a national organization on mental retardation. A parent often must stay home from work to care for the child, she said.

Ford said the administration is too strict in interpreting the law. It could have established standards that would have reduced eligibility by just a thousand cases.

However, administration officials insisted they had no choice but to follow the intent of Congress, and said the original welfare bill vetoed by the president could have removed from eligibility 700,000 of the 1 million children now receiving disability payments.

The new regulations and estimates were contained in the administration's budget package for the 1998 fiscal year.

Even as the administration announced rules that will reduce the number of children receiving disability benefits, it also announced a proposal to extend health insurance to 5 million children now uncovered.

About 10 million children, one in seven Americans under the age of 18, lack health insurance. Most come from homes with working parents.

The budget calls for expenditures of $2.8 billion in fiscal 1998, which begins Oct. 1, and $18.4 billion over five years for three programs to expand coverage of children.

The first part would pay for up to six months of health insurance for families of workers who lose their jobs. States would get money to pay the insurance premiums.

A second category of spending would enable the working poor—people with jobs who make too much to qualify for the Medicaid program for the poor—to buy private insurance to cover their children. The states would get grants to help these working families buy coverage.

A third program would make a major effort to find 3 million children who are eligible for Medicaid but not covered.

Together, the three programs should provide health protection for 5 million children, according to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

The administration plan also would allow states to extend Medicaid coverage for an extra year to children whose parents move off welfare or change jobs. Medicaid, called Medi-Cal in California, is available to the poor.

The proposed budget "makes a dramatic step to help our children," Shalala said.

Moderately disabled children to lose aid

Welfare law forces Social Security change

By Laura Meckler
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About 135,000 poor children who are disabled — but not disabled enough — will lose federal payments under rules announced Thursday implementing another piece of last year's welfare law.

Disability activists labeled the rules extreme, and the Republican congressman who helped write the law said they didn't go far enough. But the Social Security Administration, which had great discretion in writing the regulations, said it had found the perfect balance.

"We have established a fair, a consistent manner of review ... so that children with severe disabilities ... who deserve benefits will continue to receive those benefits," Social Security Commissioner Shirley Chater said Thursday.

Last year's welfare overhaul tightened eligibility requirements for children applying for the Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, program, which pays about $430 per month to help parents who must stay home with their children or buy expensive equipment to help them.

The program serves nearly 1 million children, and in December, about 263,000 families were notified that depending on the final rules, they may no longer qualify.

Under the rules announced Thursday, about half of those families will lose benefits. Over the next five years, another 45,000 SSI applicants who would have qualified under old rules will not, officials said.

Disability activists said the new rules will mean mentally retarded children with IQs as low as 71 will no longer qualify for SSI.

"This is way beyond fine tuning," said Marty Ford, spokeswoman for the Arc of the United States, an advocacy group. "It is devastating to these families."

President Clinton's budget, also released Thursday, would provide money for Medicaid benefits for about 80,000 children who are being taken off SSI and would not already qualify for Medicaid in their states.

Children have always qualified for SSI if they have a physical or mental condition included on a list of ailments. Since 1990, when the Supreme Court expanded eligibility standards, children have qualified if they have a combination of other problems that keep them from functioning normally.

The new welfare law tightened that second qualification.

"The main goal was to ensure that only children who were truly disabled and in need of assistance qualified for the program," Rep. Jim McCrery, R-La., who led the effort to rewrite the rules, said Thursday.

The legislation gave the administration wide latitude in writing the regulations. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the law could force between 10 percent and 28 percent of the children off the rolls.

Disability activists lobbied the administration to write the rules to allow as many children as possible to qualify, but they were disappointed.

"They could have written a regulation that would have hurt far fewer children," said Jonathan Stein, an attorney from Philadelphia who won the 1990 Supreme Court case expanding the disability definition.

"The law is the law," responded Chater, who said Clinton approved the rules before they were announced.

Disabilities are labeled as moderate, marked or severe. Under the old rules, children with marked limitations in two areas or moderate limitations in three areas qualified for SSI.

For instance, a child who could not dress himself would show a marked disability, while one who just had trouble dressing himself would have a moderate problem, said Susan Daniels, associate commissioner for disability.

The new rules require marked disabilities in two areas, such as social and personal functioning, or extreme limitations in one area, such as the inability to walk.

"We moved the marker a little more toward severe," Daniels said.

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL
National/Foreign Editor Kerry Hill, 252-6163

PAGE A24 • STAR TRIBUNE (Minneapolis, MN) FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 • 1997

135,000 children will lose benefits under changes in the welfare law

From News Services

WASHINGTON — About 135,000 children with mental or physical problems whose families receive disability payments will lose their benefits under the welfare reform law, the Social Security Administration announced Thursday.

Although the government has known since last year that children with those problems would lose their benefits, the announcement provided the first solid estimate of the number that will be affected.

Most of the those being cut from the rolls have mental or emotional problems such as hyperactivity but will no longer be considered eligible under new, tougher rules imposed by the welfare legislation.

The Social Security Administration said it has adopted new eligibility standards and is mailing notices to the families of 280,000 disabled children telling them their cases will be reviewed.

The agency forecast that about 135,000 of those children will be dropped from the rolls. Children are eligible for federal disability payment if they have "marked and severe" limitations under the new law.

For example, a 6-year-old girl with cerebral palsy, who wears leg braces and whose speech is hard to understand, could keep drawing benefits. But a 9-year-old with attention deficit hyperactivity, who lags two years behind his age group in school, and gets in trouble, would become ineligible.

The impact "will be devastating" on families who depend on the disability checks for paying basic bills for food, clothing and shelter, predicted Marty Ford of the ARC, a national organization on mental retardation. A parent often must stay home from work to care for the child, she said.

The new and much-stricter standards stem from Congress' determination to tighten access to the Supplemental Security Income children's disability program, which provides cash averaging $434 a month and access to Medicaid health coverage to eligible children.

The issue has presented a dilemma to the Clinton administration, which did not push for the strict SSI provisions when the welfare measure was before Congress last year, but was required to interpret the language in the midst of strong lobbying from advocates urging that as few children as possible be removed from the rolls.

The administration missed its November deadline for issuing the rules, which were vetted by the White House and the Office of Management and Budget, then released Thursday on a day when the president's budget overpowers virtually all other news stories.

"The law is the law," said Social Security commissioner Shirley Chater in announcing the regulations.

Chater and other officials implied that the rules could have been harsher. The Congressional Budget Office, for example, at one point had estimated that the number of children who may lose benefits could surpass 200,000. Chater also sought to offer some reassurances, saying children with severe disabilities "who deserve benefits will continue to receive those benefits."

But parents of many children now receiving benefits fear they could soon lose assistance that has allowed them medical care, helped them purchase special equipment and permitted one parent to stay home rather than work.

"This is overkill," said Jonathan Stein, a Philadelphia attorney who has been a leading advocate for the program. "The bill never mandated that this many kids must be terminated."

President Clinton has proposed that children who lose SSI benefits be allowed to retain Medicaid, but there is no assurance that Congress will adopt that plan.

YAHOO! NEWS —REUTERS

Previous Story: US-Russia Talk Business, Summit Plans
Next Story: Clinton Seeks "Honorable Compromise" on Budget

Friday February 7 6:32 AM EST

Clinton Plan Cuts 135,000 Kids From Benefits

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - The Clinton administration has issued new regulations that will cut 135,000 children from federal disability rolls by tightening eligibility requirements.

The new rules, quietly unveiled on a day of multiple news conferences on President Clinton's budget, will also deny benefits to about 45,000 children who would have otherwise been eligible over the next five years, reducing spending by $4.8 billion in the five-year period.

Advocates for the mentally and physically disabled said the administration had gone much farther than required by the new welfare law, endangering thousands of poor children.

"This is way beyond fine-tuning. This is devastating to these families," said Marty Ford, assistant director of The Arc, a national group for the mentally retarded. "Some of them call and tell us they are afraid they are going to have to institutionalize these children."

Social Security Commissioner Shirley Chater said her agency had taken a prudent, careful course in attempting to implement a new welfare law that tightens eligibility for the Supplemental Security Income program for disabled children.

"I believe (the rules) meet the spirit and the letter of the law but at the same time offer protection to the rights of children and families," she told a news briefing.

Chater said the change, which makes it harder for children to qualify for SSI due to mental impairments, would not endanger benefits to children with Downs Syndrome, autism or other severe diseases.

The welfare law signed by Clinton in August 1996 tightened SSI to correct what some Republicans termed widespead abuse of the program.

They claimed parents coached their children so they could qualify for benefits based on

emotional disorders, a claim the White House disputed, saying several studies investigating the complaints did not find widespread problems.

Louisiana Republican Rep. Jim McCrery, the main force behind the SSI changes, said the rules appeared to be fair.

But he said he was suprised the estimate of affected children was below a 185,000 estimate by the Congressional Budget Office. About 965,000 children overall receive SSI.

"We have plenty of evidence right here in my congressional district that there has been widespread abuse of the program. I think Social Security frankly stuck their head in the sand and refused to accept the evidence that was there," he said.

The welfare law required the administration to develop criteria to cover children who had "marked and severe functional limitations."

Under the new rules, children will have to show signs of marked limitations in two areas of functioning or extreme limitations in one area, such as inability to walk.

Advocacy groups had wanted far less restrictive rules that would end benefits to about 60,000 children.

The Social Security administration said an example of a child currently on the program who would continue to get aid was Abigail R., a 2-year-old unable to swallow properly and fed through a stomach tube.

A child who would lose benefits is Helen S., 7, whose wrists are swollen from arthritis. She can dress and feed herself but cannot move quickly when in pain. She is limited in her play and has difficulty being with other children.

| earch News Help

Previous Story: US-Russia Talk Business, Summit Plans
Next Story: Clinton Seeks "Honorable Compromise" on Budget

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Questions or Comments

USA TODAY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1997

Plan to insure kids may fare better this time

By Steven Findlay
USA TODAY

The Clinton administration's 1998 budget proposal contains a cautious foray into an arena that burned the president in his first term — expanding health insurance coverage.

The target group this time: 10 million uninsured children. The chances of success: better than 50%, experts say.

"We could have a very real shot this time around," says Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a health reform advocacy group. "It's an incremental step, but a very important one."

The issue is gathering momentum in and outside of Washington. Senate lawmakers on both sides of the issue have proposed plans to expand coverage to uninsured children. A growing number of states have initiatives, too. State legislators in New Jersey, Wisconsin and Colorado have introduced children-insurance bills in the last two weeks.

Crafting federal legislation won't be easy. The numerous proposals, including Clinton's plan, would cost billions.

Clinton's proposal, which would cost $18.4 billion over four years, aims to cover half the 10 million uninsured children by 2002 through a five-pronged approach. The plan is:

▶ Enroll at least 1.6 million of about 3 million children who are eligible for Medicaid, but have never been signed up because it's a hassle to do so.

▶ Expand Medicaid coverage to 1 million 13- to 18-year-olds in low-income families.

▶ Allow states to automatically extend benefits of 1 million children covered by Medicaid for a year, if their parents become ineligible.

▶ Give states $3.8 billion to help them subsidize the purchase of private coverage by working families who don't qualify for Medicaid.

▶ Give states about $7 billion to help subsidize coverage for up to six months for people who have just lost a job. An estimated 3 million adults and 700,000 of their children would benefit.

Senate Democrats want to expand children's coverage through federal tax subsidies and state grant programs and by mandating that insurers offer children-only policies. A plan submitted by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., would give low- and moderate-income families a tax credit for the purchase of coverage for children. The cost: $4 billion to $5 billion a year to cover 5 million uninsured kids.

Democrats such as Massachusetts Sens. Edward Kennedy and John Kerry want to funnel $20 billion to $25 billion over five years to states to help families buy health insurance. They'd pay for the plan with a 75-cent-a-pack cigarette tax.

Both approaches run the risk of giving employers an incentive to drop children's coverage because the government would be picking up part of the tab, say critics.

Senate Republicans this week proposed that families be allowed to deduct 100% of the cost of health insurance and use a $500 tax credit for every child under age 18 to buy health insurance.

135,000 will lose disability benefits

By Richard Wolf
USA TODAY

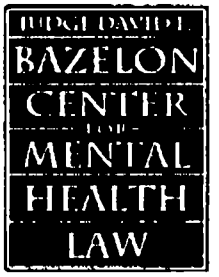
About 135,000 children will lose federal disability benefits this year under rules issued Thursday by the Clinton administration.

The guidelines, required by last year's welfare reform law, also will prevent about 45,000 children from qualifying during the next five years. The reductions will save $4.8 billion by 2002.

Currently, 965,000 low-income children receive cash grants averaging $424 a month under the Supplemental Security Income program. Congress ordered tougher eligibility standards last year after reports that some children were coached to fake behavioral problems to receive "crazy checks."

Several studies found little evidence of fraud. But President Clinton decided to drop "those children with the more mild impairments," Social Security Commissioner Shirley Chater said, such as attention disorders and learning disabilities.

"Kids who are going to be kicked off the rolls are still severely disabled," said Marty Ford of The Arc, a group that lobbies on behalf of the mentally retarded. But Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., a critic of the program, said Clinton acted "within the spirit of the legislation."



New Rules for Children's SSI Program

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has released new regulations for the children's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. The regulations were required by the new welfare law passed by Congress.

Of the 1 million children now receiving SSI, approximately 288,000 are affected by the new eligibility rules. Among these children reviewed, SSA estimates that 135,000 will lose eligibility – i.e. almost half of the children to be reviewed will lose their cash benefits. It is estimated that the program will be cut by $4.8 billion over the next six years and that about 250,000 overall will lose access to benefits.

Key aspects of the new regulations are described below.

1. New definition of childhood disability

Children must have a "medically determinable physical or mental impairment which results in marked and severe functional limitations" of substantial duration to qualify for disability benefits.

This new definition of childhood disability replaces the previous statutory language on "comparable severity" which was the basis of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1990 *Zebley* decision, requiring SSA to use an evaluation process for children comparable to the one it uses for adults claiming disability benefits. The Supreme Court directed SSA to supplement its listing of medical impairments with an individualized assessment of how a child's impairments affects his or her ability to function.

2. Elimination of Individualized Functional Assessment (IFA)

The welfare law eliminated the Individualized Functional Assessment (IFA), established after the *Zebley* decision. In an IFA, a state disability examiner determined eligibility by comparing a child's limitations in various areas of daily activity to the activities of children the same age who do not have a disability. In many states, up to one third of eligible children qualified through the IFA. In late 1996, 228,000 children received notices telling them that SSA would review their SSI eligibility because they had qualified for benefits through the IFA.

Prior to this notice, the vast majority of families did not know how their children qualified for disability benefits. To determine if a child is still eligible under the new regulations, Social Security will examine the child's records and may request additional information from the child's doctor, therapist, nurse or teacher.

Children can now qualify only through the more restrictive medical listings. SSA will re-evaluate each child who qualified through an IFA to determine if he or she will remain eligible through the medical listings.

Eliminating the IFA has major consequences for children with serious mental, emotional and behavioral disorders. Among children who now qualify through the functional assessment, 44% have a mental illness or serious emotional disorder. SSA data indicate the percentage of children, within diagnoses, who could lose access to SSI by elimination of the IFA:

- 49% of the children who qualify because of mood disorders;
- 38% of those with pulmonary tuberculosis;
- 33% of those with mental retardation;
- 29% of those with burns;
- 25% of those with intercranial injuries;
- 22% of those with schizophrenia; and
- 22% of those with arthritis.

3. Changes regarding evidence of certain mental or emotional conditions

The medical listings will be modified to eliminate references to "maladaptive behavior" in functional area for children with mental impairments. Previously, maladaptive behavior was counted in two domains: social and personal/behavioral functioning. The new regulations instruct disability examiners to only consider evidence of this limitation when evaluating a child's social functioning.

SSA will review 41,175 cases of children who previously qualified based upon evidence of "maladaptive behavior." When reviewing these cases, SSA will examine documentation of the child's mental diagnosis as well as other evidence about the child's limitations. Documentation of "maladaptive behavior" is still important – and acceptable – evidence of a child's mental or emotional impairment, but it must be accompanied by other information about the child's functional limitations.

4. Timeline for case redeterminations by Social Security Administration

The law requires SSA to complete the redeterminations within one year of the date of enactment, i.e. by August 22, 1997. Congress provided additional administrative funding for SSA to complete these redeterminationsm and conduct continuing disability reviews for certain categories of children and at certain intervals for most children. Current recipients will continue receiving benefits until July 1, 1997 or the date of redetermination, if it is later.

5. Loss of Medicaid coverage

Up to 50,000 children will lose access to health care through the Medicaid program.

Children who lose their SSI benefits will continue to receive Medicaid if they can remain eligible on other grounds, such as their age and their family's low income. Coverage of low-income children through age 13 is now guaranteed and mandatory coverage of older children is being phased in through 2002.

State medical assistance agencies have been instructed to continue Medicaid while SSA reviews a child's SSI eligibility and throughout the appeal process if a child challenges the denial of SSI benefits. If the child's SSI denial is upheld on appeal then the state medical assistance agency must redetermine the child's Medicaid eligibility.

The President's budget proposes that Congress allocate funds to continue Medicaid to children who lose their SSI benefits because of the SSI program changes. It is believed that this may help the estimated 50,000 children who would lose Medicaid as a result of the SSI changes and who are not eligible through other categories. However, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that this proposal would cost $235 million.

6. More frequent case reviews and new treatment requirement

The new regulations require children to have their cases reviewed more frequently and to show proof of treatment when their eligibility is reviewed. Every three years, children will have their cases reviewed unless their condition is not expected to improve. Children who qualify because of their low birthweight will be reviewed 12 months after birth. Within one year after their 18th birthday, children will be reviewed under adult eligibility criteria.

At the review, the child's representative payee must show evidence that the child is receiving treatment to the extent "medically necessary and available" for the qualifying condition.

7. Mandated dedicated savings accounts

Parents (or representative payees) must establish a dedicated savings account for any back benefits that exceed six times the maximum monthly payment.

According to interim final regulations issued by SSA (December 20, 1996), money in the dedicated savings account may be used only to cover specific expenses, including education or job-skills training, personal-needs assistance, special equipment or housing modifications, medical treatment, therapy or rehabilitation. The agency will also consider as allowable expenses "other items and services related to the child's impairment(s)" that SSA determines "appropriate."

There is concern that parents will not be able to use these back benefits for basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter and utilities which are historically common ways in which families use SSI benefits.

8. Change for children with private health insurance

Children who are hospitalized and have private insurance to cover their medical care will receive the same $30 monthly SSI benefit that is paid to children whose medical bills are covered by Medicaid.

9. Annual reports to Congress

Social Security is required to provide an annual report on the SSI program to the President and Congress, including historical data on prior enrollment by public assistance recipients.

10. GAO report on program changes

By 1999, the General Accounting Office must study the impact of the new children's SSI provisions and the extra expenses incurred by families of children receiving benefits that are not covered by other federal, state or local programs.

Current Status

The children's SSI program, in 1997, can provide eligible children up to $484 a month and, in most states, access to health care through Medicaid. The money helps many families meet their child's need for special food, clothing, equipment, transportation, unreimbursed medical expenses and child care–including care by a parent who cuts back on work to provide it.

The average federal benefit for children with disabilities was $424 in June 1996 although some states provide an additional supplemental payment. Children with mental retardation were the largest single group, representing about 41% of all children enrolled while another 33% have physical disabilities and 26% have mental disorders.

Recently, the allowance rate for children applying for SSI benefits has declined to a rate lower than it was before the *Zebley* decision. Data from the Social Security Administration show that the allowance rate, which was 43% prior to the *Zebley* decision, had fallen to 32% in 1995 and continued its drop during the first four months of 1996, to 31%.

The new children's SSI regulations will be published in the Federal Register sometime during the week of February 10th, when this summary will be updated.

February 6, 1997

For more information, call Rhoda Schulzinger, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, 202/467-5730; FAX 202/223-0409; e-mail (with her name in the subject line): hn1660@handsnet.org.

The Arc of the United States
Governmental Affairs Office
1730 K Street, N.W., Suite 1212
Washington, D.C. 20006-3868
(202) 785-3388 • FAX (202) 467-4179 • TDD (202) 785-3411

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, February 6, 1997

For More Information:
Marty Ford, (202) 785-3388
Stacey Ellis, (202) 223-4933

THE ARC CONDEMNS LOSS OF SSI ASSISTANCE FOR A QUARTER OF A MILLION CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Arc of the United States, a national organization on mental retardation, is deeply disappointed in today's announcement by the Social Security Administration (SSA) of its new, overly harsh standards for a child's eligibility for benefits under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. While we acknowledge the attempt by the SSA to recognize the importance of functional abilities in assessing SSI eligibility, we reject as excessive the severity thresholds the new requirements establish. The Social Security Administration had considerable leeway in setting the new eligibility standards, yet chose to push for changes that go beyond what was necessary under last year's welfare law. The Arc is also very disappointed that this decision appears to have been driven by budget targets, rather than by what is in the best interest of the children involved. The proposal is expected to save $4.8 billion over the next six years.

To achieve the Clinton Administration's budgetary goals, 135,000 children with disabilities who are currently on the SSI program must lose essential benefits that serve as a lifeline for keeping the family together. It is estimated that an equal number will have to be denied access to this lifeline program over the next six years. This equals a total of almost a quarter of a million children with severe disabilities who will lose or be denied critical benefits.

Today's decision will have a staggering impact in a number of ways:

- Families across America will lose basic support and, in many cases, medical benefits. Already families are reporting to The Arc that they will be forced to give up their child to foster care or institutionalization. Removing a child from loving parents and a home atmosphere increases the likelihood that a child will never achieve her or his highest level of functional ability and violates all of our values regarding family life.

-more-

- The potential influx of these children into state and local service systems will place a severe strain on local communities, if the children receive any assistance at all.
- While these changes may help cut federal spending, the impact that they will have on the families who are already living at or near poverty will be devastating. The children who are dropped from the SSI program remain severely disabled and in need of assistance. If state and local governments cannot or will not make up the difference in lost support to these children, their families will simply find themselves abandoned in their efforts to provide proper care.

The Arc demands that the Administration:

- Take responsibility for thoroughly assessing each child before dropping him or her from the rolls;
- Evaluate the impact of these new eligibility requirements on families of children with disabilities by tracking what happens to the families that lose these critical supports;
- Ensure that all families being reviewed have information about available assistance in the review process;
- Continue providing SSI assistance to families of children with severe disabilities who are already on the program until a final decision is made by a Social Security judge.

The Arc calls upon the public to express its disapproval of these new eligibility standards through the planned public comment period. It is only through the activism of the public that this damaging decision can be amended.

As a result of today's announcement, The Arc expresses its grave concern for children with disabilities and their families as they are dropped from federal assistance rolls.

Founded in 1950, The Arc is the nation's largest volunteer organization dedicated solely to issues of mental retardation. There are 140,000 members working through 1,100 local and state chapters. The National Headquarters is in Arlington, Texas, with the Governmental Affairs office in Washington, D.C.

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ODCLCA QUICK FAX

(202)358-6030- Voice / (202 358-6074/6075- Fax)

2/10/97

TO: Diana Fortuna

FROM: Judy Chevez

COVER + 10 **pages**

COMMENTS:

This form is produced on reused paper

TO: Diane Fortune.

Author: Susan M. Daniels at -S3C
Date: 2/8/97 8:56 AM
Priority: Normal
TO: Joan E. Wainwright at -S5E
TO: Judy L. Chesser at -SADC
Subject: Contact lists for 2/6/97

---------- Message Contents ----------

Please see attached documents--2 faxes each to feds and advocates and my typed list of my phone contacts from budget day last week.
I completed my phone list.

SD

BROADCAST FAX

FROM: Susan M. Daniels/Tom Gloss
SSA/Office of Disability
(410) 965-3987 voice / (410) 966-6210 tdd / (410) 965-6503 fax /
Tom.Gloss@ssa.gov Internet

DATE: February 6, 1997

TO:

Bristo, Marca	(312) 226-2030
Davis, Deidre	(202) 647-4969
Davis, Speed	(202) 272-2022
Hehir, Thomas	(202) 260-0416
Heumann, Judy	(202) 205-9252
Imperato, Andy	(202) 663-7101
Lancaster, John	(202) 376-6219
Miller, Paul	(202) 663-7101

Moses, Howard	(202) 205-9252
Savage, Elizabeth	(202) 514-0293
Schroeder, Fred	(202) 205-9874
Seelman, Kate	(202) 205-8997
Spires, Thea	(202) 401-6725
Williams, Bob	(202) 401-9507
Winter, Michael	(202) 366-0263

MESSAGE:

Please see the attached statement concerning SSA's revised disability standard for children. Call if you have questions.

BROADCAST FAX

FROM: Susan M. Daniels/Tom Gloss
SSA/Office of Disability
(410) 965-3987 voice / (410) 966-6210 tdd / (410) 965-6503 fax /
Tom.Gloss@ssa.gov Internet

DATE: February 6, 1997

TO:

Bond, Kathleen	(202) 401-7733
Davis, Speed	(202) 272-2022
DeLew, Nancy	(202) 690-8168
Duffy, Dennis	(202) 273-5993
Fiala, Jerry	(202) 273-0760
Heumann, Judy	(202) 205-9252
Imperato, Andy	(202) 663-7101
Lancaster, John	(202) 376-6219

Moses, Howard	(202) 205-9252
Makowski, Anne	(202) 408-9332
O'Day, Bonnie	(202) 272-2022
Powers, Stephanie	(202) 273-0760
Reno, Virginia	(202) 452-8111
Schroeder, Fred	(202) 205-9874
Seelman, Kate	(202) 205-8997
Williams, Bob	(202) 401-9507

MESSAGE:

Please see the attached press release and fact sheet concerning the President's FY 1998 Budget initiatives focused on return-to-work and SSA. Call if you have questions.

BROADCAST FAX

FROM: Susan M. Daniels/Tom Gloss
SSA/Office of Disability
(410) 965-3987 voice / (410) 966-6210 tdd / (410) 965-6503 fax /
Tom.Gloss@ssa.gov Internet

DATE: February 6, 1997

TO:

Argoff, Jeanne	(202) 457-0473
Baron, Richard	(215) 438-8337
Beattie, Patricia	(703) 671-9053
Beedon, Laurel	(202) 434-6402
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Burkhauser, Rich	(315) 443-1081
Cassel, Eugene	(202) 682-6287
Dart, Justin	(202) 863-0010
Decker, Curt	(202) 408-9520
Demichelis, Robert	(202) 296-8850
Dinsmore, Alan	(202) 457-1492
Ford, Marty	(202) 467-4179
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Gashel, Jim	(410) 685-5613
Gennaro, Mary	(703) 648-0346
Golden, Thomas	(607) 255-2763
Hackett-Waters, P	(352) 392-8822
Harles, Charles	(202) 546-2854
Hughey, AnnMarie	(703) 525-3409
Kenney, Kim	(704) 365-9755
Kiernan, William	(617) 355-7940
Makowski, Anne	(202) 408-9332
Marchand, Paul	(202) 467-4179
Martin, Doug	(310) 825-3688
McWhorter, Celane	(703) 683-1166
Milkman, Beverly	(703) 412-7113

Ogle, Becky	(703) 836-6730
Otto, Barbara	(312) 263-3846
Palenicek, John	(202) 336-6063
Richert, Mark	(202) 467-5085
Roberts, Bill	(818) 965-1923
Roth, Marcie	(410) 828-6706
Rubinstein, Gwen	(202) 544-5712
Rutta, Randy	(202) 737-7914
Schulzinger, Rhoda	(202) 223-0409
Shaw, Ken	(301) 530-1516
Siefert, Paul	(410) 730-5965
Sperling, Andrew	(703) 524-9094
Stapleton, David	(703) 218-5503
Stewart, Tom	(703) 836-0848
Suazo, Tony	(202) 783-6536
Suter, Susan	(510) 763-4109
Traiforos, Angela	(301) 967-4585
Webb, Susan	(602) 254-6407
Wehman, Paul	(804) 828-2193
Wright, Pat	(202) 462-5624
Yelin, Edward	(415) 476-9030
Young, Glenn	(202) 632-1512
Young, Tony	(202) 776-0416
Zelenske, Ethel	(202) 785-6792

MESSAGE:

Please see the attached press release announcing the President's FY 1998 Budget initiatives focused on return-to-work and SSA. Call if you have questions.

BROADCAST FAX

FROM: Susan Daniels/Tom Gloss
SSA/Office of Disability
Rm 545 Altmeyer Bldg
Baltimore, MD 21235
(410) 965-3987 voice / (410) 966-6210 tdd / (410) 965-6503 fax /
Tom.Gloss@ssa.gov Internet

DATE: February 6, 1997

TO:

Arango, Polly	(505) 867-6517
Brown, Treeby	(202) 775-0061
Decker, Curt	(202) 408-9520
Conlon, Sara	(703) 620-2521
Dwyer, Kevin	(301) 657-0275
Ford, Marty	(202) 467-4179
Galbraith, Suellen	(703) 642-0497
Goldberg, Paula	(612) 827-3065
Holland, Elaine	(202) 393-6137
Hughey, AnnMarie	(703) 525-3409
Huff, Barbara	(703) 836-1040
Josem, Marianne	(202) 336-8310
McCaul, Ed	(703) 519-3808
McWhorter, Celane	(703) 683-1166
Otto, Barbara	(312) 263-3846
Pollack, Ron	(202) 347-2417
Perrin, James	(617) 726-1886

Reiss, John	(352) 846-0409
Ripley, Suzanne	(202) 884-8441
Roth, Marcie	(410) 828-6706
Rubinstein, Gwen	(202) 544-5712
Rutta, Randy	(202) 737-7914
Schulzinger, Rhoda	(202) 223-0409
Shaw, Ken	(301) 530-1516
Smith, Patty	(703) 836-1232
Sperling, Andrew	(703) 524-9094
Strickland, Bonnie	(301) 443-1728
Wright, Pat	(202) 462-5624
Young, Glenn	(202) 632-1512
Young, Tony	(202) 776-0416
Zelenske, Ethel	(202) 785-6792
Zierman, Susan	(202) 347-4023

MESSAGE:

You are invited to a briefing by Susan Daniels; Friday, 2/7/97, 2:30pm; 500 E Street, SW (ITC Bldg); 8th Floor

Please see the attached statement re: the new childhood disability standard to be used by the Social Security Administration. The regulation is slated to be published in the Federal Register early next week and should be available online at the Government Printing Office's home page (www.gpo.gov). Also, we hope to establish a link or reference to that from SSA's disability page (www.ssa.gov/odhome/).

Please call if you have questions....Tom

People Contacted by OD on 2/6/97

Susan Daniels' phone contacts:

Chris Button	UCPA
Justin Dart	JSA
Marty Ford	The Arc
Paul Marchand	The Arc
Rhoda Schulzinger	Bazelon
Eunice Shriver	Kennedy Foundation
Pat Wright	DREDF

Conference call with disability appointees

Tom Gloss' phone contacts:

Peeby Brown	AMCHP
Marty Ford	The Arc
Elaine Holland	AAP
Rhoda Schulzinger	Bazelon
Bonnie Strickland	MCHB