



July 16, 2018

The Honorable Pete Sessions
Chairman, House Committee on Rules
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James P. McGovern
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Rules
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member McGovern:

The Gray Panthers strongly urges you to support an amendment cosponsored by Representatives Bobby Scott (D-VA), Elijah Cummings (D-MA), and David Cicilline (D-RI). The amendment is crucial in ensuring the integrity of our Social Security system. It would prohibit any funds to be used to implement a recent executive order that would eliminate the independence of administrative law judges, thereby denying those who appear before them their due process.

Most ALJs work for the Social Security Administration. Their primary responsibility is the extremely crucial determination of whether workers have become so disabled that they can no longer support themselves through work and therefore can collect their Social Security wage insurance.

This process must be made by experienced judges who are independent of political bias. The recent executive order removes the requirement of experience and removes their civil service protections, by making them part of the so-called "excepted service." This is outrageous. We will hold anyone who votes against this crucial amendment accountable.

Sincerely,

Jack Kupferman, President
Gray Panthers NYC
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Cc: Tom Cole. (R-OK); Rob Woodall. (R-GA); Michael Burgess. (R-TX); Doug Collins. (R-GA);
Bradley Byrne. (R-AL); Dan Newhouse. (R-WA); Ken Buck. (R-CO); Liz Cheney (R-WY);
Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL); Jared Polis (D-CO); Norma Torres (D-CA)