Letter of Support for H.R. 3309, Social Security Online Tools Innovation Act

July 17, 2018

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Larson,

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Social Security Task Force is pleased to support the amendment in the nature of a substitute for H.R. 3309, the Social Security Online Tools Innovation Act.

The work incentives within the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program are crucial, yet complex. An online tool that helps SSDI beneficiaries understand how earnings will affect their benefits is one way to help people with disabilities gain more independence and financial stability. The decision to return to the workforce or increase earnings can be a difficult one, often made in consultation with loved ones, medical providers, and organizations such as Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) grantees. This bill will provide SSDI beneficiaries with another tool to assist them in making these important choices.

We support the language in the amendment that would protect beneficiaries from collection of overpayments if the calculator provides inaccurate information. Concern about overpayments is a significant work disincentive and harming beneficiaries who receive misinformation from an official source is against equity and good conscience.

Thank you for your leadership on this legislation.

Sincerely,

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Social Security Task Force

For more information contact Lisa Ekman, NOSSCR, lisa.ekman@nossr.org; Tracey Gronniger, Justice in Aging, tgronniger@justiceinaging.org; Jeanne Morin, NADR, jmorin.ppa@gmail.com, or T.J. Sutcliffe, The Arc of the United States, sutcliffe@thearc.org.