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## Federal Bar Association

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November 30, 2006

The Honorable William H. Frist  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: FY 2007 Continuing Resolution and Funding for the Social Security Administration

Dear Senators Frist, Reid, Cochran and Byrd:

I write on behalf of the Social Security Section of the Federal Bar Association to support the November 21, 2006 letter to you from 54 Senators regarding the fiscal year 2007 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, and urge you to fully fund the President's budget request of approximately \$9.5 billion for the Social Security Administration administrative expenses.

According to Social Security Commissioner Jo Anne B. Barnhart, the failure to fully fund the President's budget will lead to furloughs of ten days for all Social Security Administration staff. We urge the Senate to take all appropriate efforts to avoid an outcome of such magnitude and scope, which would wreak havoc upon the delivery of Social Security payments to millions of elderly and disabled Americans, as well as delay the ongoing disability adjudication efforts of the agency.

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These comments are submitted on behalf of the Social Security Section of the Federal Bar Association (FBA). These comments are exclusively those of the Social Security Section of the Federal Bar Association, and not the FBA as a whole. The Federal Bar Association is the foremost national association of private and government lawyers engaged in practice before the federal courts and federal agencies, with a membership of sixteen thousand members. The Social Security Section is one of the association's sections of substantive practice, uniquely comprised of attorneys involved in all aspects of Social Security disability adjudication, including attorney representatives of claimants, administrative law judges, Appeals Council judges, staff attorneys in the SSA Office of Hearings and Appeals and Office of General Counsel, U.S. Attorneys and U.S. Magistrate Judges, District Court Judges and Circuit Court Judges.

The Social Security legal community well knows and remembers the adverse effects of furloughs. As a direct result of the furloughs that were forced to occur in 1995-96 due to a budget impasse, Social Security disability administrative hearings that had been requested years earlier were postponed and rescheduled only many months later, well after the furloughs ended. We certainly urge that all efforts be undertaken to avoid this from happening once again.

We urge you to provide adequate funding to permit the Social Security Administration to handle its duties to all citizens without interruption. If Congress adopts a continuing resolution to continue government funding of SSA and other agencies through February 15, we urge you to include whatever adjustment is necessary to avoid the adverse impact that lower stopgap level funding would bring to bear upon SSA and its constituents.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Flack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Flack, Chair  
Social Security Section