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**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** Turning 60 today: Social Security disability program

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Dear Colleague:

Today marks the 60th anniversary of the Social Security disability program. For 60 years, it has protected workers and their families in the event of a severe disability.

Here are a few facts you may not have known about this critical social insurance program:

- About 1-in-4 of today's 20-year-old workers will become disabled before reaching retirement age.
- Social Security disability benefits lift 3 million people out of poverty each year.
- Although Social Security disability benefits are modest (less than \$1,200 per month on average), they are the main source of income for most people who receive them.

Visit our [Faces and Facts of Disability](#) page to learn more. Here you can also watch engaging personal stories from people who rely on this earned benefit.

To commemorate this milestone, we will be hosting a series of articles about the Social Security disability program on our blog in the coming months. We'll hear from beneficiaries, historians, stakeholders, and experts, and reflect on the program's history and importance. Social Security's Acting Commissioner, C. Victor Castelli, will be the first article in the series. You can read it [here](#).

Whether in old age, upon the death of a loved one, or in case of disability, Social Security is there to help you on your life journey.

Sincerely,

J. Jioni Palmer  
Associate Commissioner for External Affairs  
(T) 410-965-1804  
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