

**From:** Social Security Administration, Office of External Affairs <Oea.net.post@ssa.gov>  
**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
**Date:** 7/31/2015 11:24:14 AM  
**Subject:** The Americans with Disabilities Act is 25!

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Dear Colleague:

This week, the Americans with Disabilities Act turned 25 years old. By prohibiting disability-based discrimination, this landmark legislation protects nearly one in five people in the United States against unfair treatment. Social Security recognizes the importance of this groundbreaking law and other legal protections for people with disabilities.

Part of our mission is educating the public about our programs, including the income security that Social Security affords workers in case they become severely disabled. Through our **Faces and Facts of Disability** website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts), we are raising awareness about Social Security disability insurance and the men, women, and children who rely on it.

For example, many people don't realize that workers pay for this insurance through taxes on their earnings, or that the Social Security Act requires us to use a very strict definition of disability. Of the roughly 56 million Americans living with disabilities, only about 9 million (16 percent) receive Social Security disability insurance payments, along with about 2 million of their dependents. For many, this is the only thing keeping them out of poverty.

Please take a moment to visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts) for more information about the Social Security disability insurance program, as well as informative videos and personal stories from people living with disabilities. I hope you will consider sharing this link with your members, associates, and external audiences. Please also encourage them to create a *my* Social Security account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). This secure online account lets workers verify the earnings information we have for them in our records and view estimates of their future Social Security benefits. Those who are currently receiving Social Security can use it to conveniently conduct business with us concerning their benefits.

What better way to mark the last quarter century of progress for Americans with disabilities than by letting people know about Social Security and bringing more light to the public conversation concerning this essential social safety net!

Sincerely,

J. Jioni Palmer  
Associate Commissioner for External Affairs  
(T) 410-965-1804  
(E) [Jioni.Palmer@ssa.gov](mailto:Jioni.Palmer@ssa.gov)

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Social Security Administration, 3409 Annex 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235 United States