



Paralyzed Veterans of America

801 18th Street NW
Washington DC 20006-3517
(O) 202.872.1300
(TTY) 202.416.7622
(F) 202.785.4452
www.pva.org

Chartered by the Congress of the United States

December 5, 2019

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Senate Finance Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Larson
Chairman
Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vern Buchanan
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Wyden and Cassidy, Chairman Larson and Representative Buchanan:

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) is pleased to support the Know Your Social Security Act. PVA is the nation's only Congressionally chartered veterans service organization solely dedicated to representing veterans with spinal cord injuries and/or disorders. Many of our members are among the nine million veterans who receive Social Security retirement or disability benefits. Others are among the millions of veterans and military service members and their families who will at some point in their lives benefit from the system.

For many years, the Social Security Administration (SSA) issued paper earnings and benefits statements that helped to inform people about their status under Social Security and what they might expect to receive in retirement or in the event of a catastrophic disability. When SSA suspended that practice in favor of disseminating the statements only online, it meant that people who lack internet access or who prefer not to set up an internet account lost access to that information. These Americans are then denied knowing about what they have accumulated on their earnings record, what their retirement benefits might be, what they might receive in spousal benefits, or the fact they qualify for disability or survivor benefits.

As we understand, your bill will clarify that the existing requirement in the Social Security Act for SSA to provide an annual *Social Security Statement* means providing this document by mail. The bill also clarifies that SSA may provide an on-demand electronic statement when an individual chooses electronic delivery. Furthermore, the bill stipulates that SSA has met its requirement to mail an annual statement if individuals have accessed their statements electronically in the prior year and have declined to receive their statements by mail for that year.

This will be a very helpful measure for millions of Americans. PVA thanks you for introducing the Know Your Social Security Act and urges Congress to do all it can to quickly pass this bipartisan legislation this year.

Sincerely,

Heather Ansley
Associate Executive Director
Government Relations