



February 1, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senator, Iowa
135 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Johnson
Chairman, Social Security Subcommittee
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ralph Abraham
5th District, Louisiana
417 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Grassley, Chairman Johnson, and Congressman Abraham:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of AMAC, the Association of Mature American Citizens, I am writing in support of the Joint Resolution to protect certain Americans' Second Amendment rights, H.J. Res. 40. Using the Congressional Review Act, this Joint Resolution is meant to undo a Social Security Administration (SSA) regulation that would deprive thousands of Americans who are disabled and who utilize a "representative payee" in order to acquire their benefits of their ability to purchase a firearm. This regulation is both unnecessary and unfair to thousands of law-abiding seniors and citizens who wish to exercise their basic Second Amendment rights.

In December 2016, SSA finalized a rule providing that any American receiving disability benefits due to a "mental disability" and who are also receiving assistance in managing their benefits should be labeled "mentally defective." As a result, those who are inappropriately labeled as "mentally defective" are mandatorily reported to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System—a federal list of people who are barred from purchasing firearms— as required by the *Gun Control Act*. This finalized rule unjustly equates persons with disabilities and those who require assistance to manage their benefits to those who are actually "mentally defective."

Aside from the fact that this regulation inappropriately equates disabled persons relying on representative payees with those who are "mentally defective," AMAC objects to the way in which this regulation has been implemented. Over the past several years, Americans, particularly seniors, have been at the mercy of executive overreach and mandate. As millions of American seniors rely on SSA for their retirement income, the burden of this regulation has been largely concentrated in our communities. This Joint Resolution is a welcome reprieve to seniors who have had their Second Amendment rights subverted by an administration and agency with significant influence over their retirement income.

As an organization committed to representing the interests of mature Americans and seniors, AMAC is dedicated to ensuring senior citizens' interests are protected. This midnight regulation has placed an undue burden on those requiring assistance to manage their benefits and who suffer from disability. As an organization, we thank Senator Grassley, Chairman Johnson, Congressman Abraham, and their respective staffs for their quick response and steady resolve to protect seniors and those who have been affected by this regulation. We ask Congress to quickly pass this Joint Resolution and restore the basic Second Amendment rights this rule has abridged.

Sincerely,

Dan Weber
President and Founder of AMAC