

RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

JOHN McCAIN, ARIZONA
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING
JOHN HOEVEN, NORTH DAKOTA
STEVE DAINES, MONTANA

CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
JON TESTER, MONTANA
HEIDI HEITKAMP, NORTH DAKOTA
GARY C. PETERS, MICHIGAN
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
KAMALA D. HARRIS, CALIFORNIA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR
MARGARET E. DAUM, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Gale Stallworth Stone
Acting Inspector General
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235

Dear Ms. Stone:

Chairman Johnson recently wrote to express the need for greater transparency at the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General (SSA OIG). Specifically, the letter requested SSA OIG begin making investigation reports publically available online in an effort to increase accountability within the Social Security Administration (SSA).¹ Your response letter to Chairman Johnson noted that SSA OIG is developing policy guidance related to public postings of investigation reports, and states there are serious privacy concerns since these reports contain personally-identifiable information about subjects and witnesses.²

I strongly encourage SSA OIG to follow in the footsteps of other OIGs by making redacted copies of investigation reports or detailed summaries of investigations available online. Having these reports publically available and accessible will increase transparency and accountability agency wide. Moreover, Congress can use the information obtained from whistleblowers and witnesses to shed light on waste, fraud, and misconduct within the agency, perform greater oversight, and continue to hold agencies accountable in all matters. I ask that you provide me with a timeline as to when this new policy guidance will be finalized and implemented.

Chairman Johnson's letter also noted the serious allegations surfacing from Madison, Wisconsin Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR) hearing office. I am concerned as to whether similar allegations have been made at any ODAR hearing offices in Missouri. I ask that you provide me with any investigative report(s) related to allegations of misconduct and whistleblower retaliation within my state.

¹ Letter from Chairman Ron Johnson, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to Acting Inspector General Gale Stallworth Stone (Feb. 13, 2017).

² Letter from Acting Inspector General Gale Stallworth Stone, Office of the Inspector General Social Security Administration, to Chairman Ron Johnson (Feb. 17, 2017).

The Honorable Gale Stallworth Stone

March 7, 2017

Page 2

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please contact Phylicia Woods with my Committee Staff with any questions at (202) 224-2627. Please send any official correspondence related to this request to Amanda_Trosen@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" being more prominent than the last name "McCaskill".

Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

Cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman