

Testimony of Srini M. Ammisetty, MD
Before the Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
October 7, 2013

I specialize in internal, pulmonary & sleep medicine practicing in Pikeville, Kentucky since 2000. I chose to practice in rural Appalachia and I am currently on active full time staff at five regional hospitals in Pike and Floyd Counties, Kentucky.

My wife, who is a family physician, is full time at Saint Joseph Hospital, Martin, and KY & also is on contract staff with the Veterans Hospital in Huntington West Virginia. I am also board certified in Addiction Medicine but have never practiced in this area.

Attorney Eric Conn who was my patient, asked me to do social security evaluations in 2005. [My office was just down the street from his.] I was not trained specifically in social security evaluation, so I refused and referred him to a specialist in that field.

Later at the end of 2010, Mr. Conn approached me again and he requested me to help him with social security evaluations because one of his regular social security doctors had passed away and another one was sick and he had many files pending that needed to be submitted soon. He told me that without an evaluating doctor his clients would not be getting their claims processed. I then agreed to do the evaluations for his clients. I had also planned to do some work in occupational medicine because of my association with the Federal Black Lung program and this was a factor in my decision to review his client's charts. I told him that I would need to examine his clients as well as do their chart reviews.

I then began doing social security chart review and pinpoint examinations for Mr. Conn. I had limited knowledge about the functional capacity evaluation forms with regard to social security claims.

Mr. Conn then said that he would have the residual functional capacity forms done in his office since he had a specialist in occupational/physical therapy that came to his office to do these evaluations. I sent the results of my examinations or chart review to Mr. Conn's office. He then had his occupational person fill out the residual capacity forms,

which were then sent to me for my signature. I then heard some rumors about his practice that caused me to discontinue my association with him. It was known in the community that federal authorities were investigating Mr. Conn. Looking back on my experience with Mr. Conn I feel that safeguards and procedures similar to those in the Federal Black Lung program could improve the social security system.

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