

# QUARTERLY REPORT FORM

## Social Security Task Force January to June 2006

### Task Force Actions Taken This Quarter

The CCD Social Security Task Force was invited to present testimony at two congressional hearings. On March 14, 2006, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on “Administrative Challenges Facing the Social Security Administration.” Eileen Sweeney, a task force co-chair, testified on behalf of the task force. This was Eileen’s last public testimony as, sadly, she passed away in June 2006.

On June 15, 2006, the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee held a hearing on “The Social Security Administration’s Improved Disability Determination Process.” Marty Ford, a task force co-chair, was asked to testify on behalf of the task force.

The task force also submitted a Statement for the Record for a House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee hearing, held on May 11, 2006, on “Service Delivery Challenges Facing the Social Security Administration.” In May 2006, co-chairs Marty Ford and Ethel Zelenske sent a letter to Chairman Ralph Regula, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, in support of a supplemental appropriations bill that provided SSA with reimbursement of costs related to the 2005 hurricane season. The provision was included in the final bill that was enacted.

### Task Force Agenda:

The task force is focusing on two major issues. Over the past year, the Social Security Advisory Board (SSAB) has been looking at developing a new, “national approach to disability programs.” Before her death, Eileen Sweeney served on an expert panel to assist the Board in writing its report. After Eileen resigned for health reasons, Marty

Ford was selected to serve on the panel. Along with several other CCD task forces that deal with issues involving employment and people with disabilities, we are developing a letter to the SSAB to reflect CCD's basic principles on this issue.

We also continue to monitor the new SSA disability claims process, Disability Service Improvement (DSI), scheduled to begin on August 1, 2006, in SSA Region I states. A checklist for issues to monitor has been developed.

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