

SOCIAL SECURITY

Dear Colleague:

Today, I am pleased to share with you a press release announcing the national rollout of Social Security's Compassionate Allowances initiative. This process will fast track disability applications for people with certain cancers and rare diseases, and will allow us to make disability determinations on these cases in a matter of days, rather than months or years.

Social Security is launching this expedited decision process with a total of 50 conditions that can be found at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances. Over time, more diseases and conditions will be added.

As Commissioner Astrue stated, "The launch of Compassionate Allowances is another step to ensuring Americans with disabilities, especially those with certain cancers and rare diseases, get the benefits they need quickly."

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Cheri Arnott
Associate Commissioner for External Affairs