

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 20, 2016

The Honorable Carolyn Colvin
Acting Commissioner of Social Security
U.S. Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

Dear Commissioner Colvin:

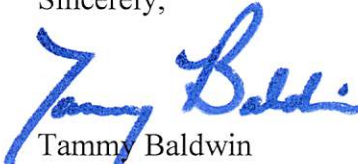
I write to request you take immediate action to address allegations of misconduct and harassment at the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR) in Madison, Wisconsin.

In September 2015 I was contacted by an employee of the Madison ODAR office and connected that whistleblower to the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). I then followed up with the Social Security Administration's Office of the Inspector General (SSA OIG) in February 2016 because the employee had not yet received confirmation acknowledging a formal complaint filed with the OIG Hotline in September 2015. It is my understanding that both SSA OIG and OSC are fully aware of allegations of serious misconduct at the Madison ODAR. Thus, I find it troubling that no apparent disciplinary action has been taken in over 9 months. Since then, media reports have echoed serious allegations of sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as waste, fraud and abuse.

I am particularly troubled by allegations of misconduct by an administrative law judge toward coworkers and claimants. His hearing notes reveal overtly racist and sexist descriptions of claimants, which I find abhorrent. In light of this information, I am requesting that all of the judge's previous cases be reviewed to ensure his personal views did not adversely affect his rulings. I would like to be informed how many cases he has decided over his tenure at the SSA. Upon conclusion of your review, I want a full report on its findings.

In light of an apparent lack of disciplinary action since my previous correspondence, I believe it is time for you to intervene and ensure that the Madison ODAR office is a safe work environment, free from inappropriate behavior, that provides the highest-quality service to my constituents. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator