September 29, 2003
9114 Berkwood Court
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Jo Anne Barnhart
Commissioner, Social Security Administration
P.O. Box 17703
Baltimore, MD 21235-7703

Dear Commissioner Barnhart:

I am writing to support the proposed regulations for continuation of benefits for people who are participating in a program of vocational rehabilitation services, employment services, or other support services (published for public comment on August 1, 2003). The proposed regulations would change the rules which guide how SSA decides to allow continuation of cash benefits for people in vocational or other support training who no longer meet the definition of eligibility for SSI benefits.

I believe that this is a very important proposal and I urge you to publish it as a final rule as soon as possible. Young people with disabilities should remain in school or in vocational training as long as possible to acquire the skills to become as independent as possible. This proposed regulation will make it possible for more young people to finish their educational, vocational, or other support training.

Sincerely,

Eileen P. Hammer
parent of a young person
with disabilities