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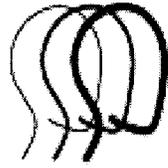


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June 16, 2003

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

Re: **Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Mental Disorders**  
**Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking**  
*68 Federal Register* 12639, March 17, 2003

Dear Commissioner Barnhart:

The Brain Injury Alliance of South Carolina is pleased to submit the attached comments on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Mental Disorders, published in the *Federal Register* on March 17, 2003.

Our Alliance has a membership of over 2000 families all of whom have a vested interest in creating a better future for the brain injury community.

My son was very unfortunate with his traumatic brain injury as it was severe and at age thirteen; he easily qualified for SSI. Since that time I have become acquainted with many individuals with TBI whom I feel should receive assistance but do not because the rules do not properly address their situation.

We thank you and the Social Security Administration for seeking this input. This is a critically important issue that will affect millions of people with traumatic brain injury (and their families) for years to come. Improvements to the system will provide a "pay-back" in the long run.

Sincerely,

Philip H. Clarkson  
President, Brain Injury Alliance of SC

*Creating a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy.*