



SOCIAL SECURITY

The Commissioner

August 6, 2013

Mr. Peter L. Saltonstall
President and CEO
National Organization for Rare Disorders
1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Saltonstall:

Thank you for your July 12, 2013 letter requesting my continued support for the Compassionate Allowances (CAL) initiative. I appreciate your proactive approach and want to assure you that the CAL initiative has my full support. We remain dedicated to expediting service to the most severely disabled Americans. Our fast-track initiatives, including CAL, exemplify our continued commitment to this goal.

I am aware of the National Organization for Rare Disorders' (NORD) connection to CAL, and I appreciate the contributions NORD and its member organizations have made to the initiative. You have been a significant partner in this endeavor. Although we reached a milestone of 200 CAL conditions this past December, we continue to work on identifying more conditions that meet the CAL criteria. We are scheduling our next release of CAL conditions for the end of the calendar year. Of course, we will continue to communicate with you.

Thank you again for your continued support. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me, or your staff may contact Art Spencer, our Associate Commissioner for Disability Programs, at (410) 966-5766.

Sincerely,

Carolyn W. Colvin
Acting Commissioner