



SOCIAL SECURITY

Refer to:
S9H: 2026-FOIA-00906

March 16, 2026

Mr. Christopher A. Dreisbach
React19
226 Farmstead Lane
Lititz, PA 17543
christopher.dreisbach@react19.org

Dear Mr. Dreisbach:

I am responding to your request for a fee waiver concerning your February 16, 2026 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for “copies of all medical literature referenced, relied upon, or cited by” SSA in the August 11, 2025 denial of Dr. Joel Wallskog’s request that Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP) be included in SSA’s Compassionate Allowances (CAL) program.

I reviewed your request for a fee waiver and I have decided not to waive or reduce the fee. We may waive or reduce the fee under our regulation at 20 C.F.R. § 402.85 if we find that waiver is in the public interest. We make this determination if we find that disclosure of the information meets both tests below:

- it is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, and
- it is not primarily in the requester’s commercial interest.

Our regulation (20 C.F.R. § 402.85(b)) lists factors we consider in analyzing whether disclosure is in the public interest. These factors include:

- how the records pertain to the Federal government’s operations or activities,
- whether disclosure would reveal any meaningful information about government operations or activities not already known to the public, and
- whether the contribution to public understanding would be significant.

To be granted a fee waiver, “you must be reasonably specific in your waiver request as to the specific Government operation or activity and provide direct, clear (not remote or attenuated) connections to the meaningful information you seek.” 20 C.F.R. § 402.85(b)(2)(iv). Further, as our regulation indicates, “[g]eneralized interest in government programs is not reasonably specific to grant waiver.” *Id*

Your fee waiver request fails to explain with reasonable specificity how the disclosure of the information you requested will meet the above factors, and I have not otherwise found that

release of the records requested would meet the abovementioned factors. Accordingly, applying the standards listed above, I cannot waive the fee.

We are charging you fees for your request under section 1106(c) of the Social Security Act (Act) (42 U.S.C. § 1306(c)). Because we have invoked section 1106(c), the FOIA fee provisions in 5 U.S.C. § 552 are not applicable to your request. Section 1106(c) applies notwithstanding FOIA and provides that we charge the full cost for search and reproduction of records when the request is for a purpose not directly related to the administration of a program under the Act (20 C.F.R. § 402.80), *regardless* of the fee provisions in FOIA. We determined that your request is not directly related to the administration of the Act. Accordingly, we will charge you for the full cost to provide the requested information (42 U.S.C. § 1306(c); 20 C.F.R. § 402.80).

We will send further correspondence when we determine what fees, if any, apply to your request.

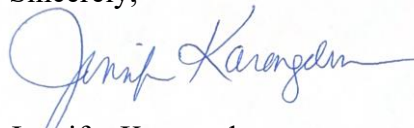
Please note that this response is limited to the determination on your fee waiver request; our office is still assessing your request as phrased and will provide subsequent correspondence on that determination.

If you have questions or would like further assistance with your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov; by phone at 410-965-1727, by choosing Option 2; or facsimile at 833-795-0132.

You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration for dispute resolution services. OGIS is an entity outside of SSA that offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; or toll-free at 1-877-684-6448.

If you disagree with this decision, you may file a written appeal with the Executive Director for the Office of Privacy and Disclosure, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted to FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov within 90 days of the date of our response to your initial request. Please mark the envelope or subject line with “Freedom of Information Appeal.”

Sincerely,



Jennifer Karangelen
Acting Freedom of Information Officer