

Congressional Structured Settlements Caucus Meeting
March 5, 2014
Rayburn House Office Building
Room 2138

Good morning, Congressmen. Thank you for having me here today.

I'd like to start by first saying thanking Congressman Lewis for taking the initiative to form this bi-partisan Congressional Caucus to help educate newer, younger Members of Congress on the value and importance of structured settlements.

A little more than 33 years ago, I had a diving accident that left me paralyzed from the chest down. Thankfully, the circumstances of my accident did not warrant the need for a structured settlement. I did, however encounter a number of other individuals during my 7 months in the hospital that warranted and necessitated a structured settlement.

In some instances for them, a structured settlement was literally their lifeline. Without it, they simply would not have survived.

For so many people with serious or profound disabilities, structured settlements enable them to live with dignity and financial independence, free of reliance on government programs and interference.

With respect to my role as Chair of the American Association of People with Disabilities, the intended purpose of structured settlements aligns perfectly with our mission to promote/advocate laws, process, or policies that enable people with disabilities to live independently – in their own homes.

Our hope is to ensure that structured settlements continue to have a place and that they continue to provide support to those who need it.

You have my support and I want to thank you for the work that you do to help make life a little easier for the people who need this benefit.

Thank you.