

Dear [Representative or Senator name],

Life has been good to me. I went to college for four years and was active in organizations and attended many events. I lived the college dream. My goal, after graduation, was to secure a job in my field of study, Criminal Justice Forensics, save money, get my own home, live independently, and get married. I have realized that even though I work two part-time jobs, it is hard to save enough money to live my dream life.

I work for Sodexo at the Superdome as a prep cook, and I'm also a hostess at Ruby Slipper in Metairie. I love both of my jobs! But there's a big roadblock: Right now, I'm only allowed to save up to \$2,000 in total assets or I could lose my Medicaid. That's not \$2,000 a month. That is \$2,000 in assets so my savings and my monthly income even though some of the income is used to pay my living expenses. On top of that, there are limits on how much I'm allowed to earn each month, even though I want to work more.

Can you imagine trying to plan for your future or save for emergencies with just \$2,000 in the bank? Would you expect your children or grandchildren to live like that?

Guess what, you can help me and other individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities by supporting and passing this legislation, **SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (H.R.2540/S.1234)**. This bill will do the following:

- Raise the asset limits for individuals to \$10,000
- Index the asset limits to inflation moving forward
- Eliminate the Marriage Penalty in SSI

This bill would update outdated rules and help people like me and others with disabilities save money and live more independently – without being punished for working hard.

The next time you are in Louisiana, I would appreciate the opportunity to sit down and talk to you in person about how supporting this bill will benefit millions of individuals, young and old with Down syndrome and other disabilities. You could also stop by Ruby Slipper and see me in action.

Please support the **SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (H.R.2540/S.1234)** and encourage your fellow Senators and Representatives to do the same.

Thank you for reading my story. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Your Constituent,

Hannah LaCour

Phone: xxx-xxx-xxxx

Email:

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IG:

Home Address:

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code:

