

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
NORTH CAROLINA

Deborah B. v. Frank Bisignano

Bunting · No. 1:25-CV-032-DAB-JEP · Decided March 25, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina reviewed a magistrate judge’s recommendation in a Social Security disability action. Finding no clear error and no objections, the court affirmed the Commissioner’s decision, denied the plaintiff’s dispositive brief, granted the defendant’s dispositive brief, and dismissed the action with prejudice.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina
WRITING FOR THE COURT	David A. Bragdon
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina
DECIDED	March 25, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-CV-032-DAB-JEP
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's memorandum opinion and recommendation concerning the Commissioner's decision denying Social Security disability benefits. No objections were filed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	In the absence of objections to a magistrate judge's recommendation, the district court must satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record before accepting the recommendation.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

TOPICS

- judicial review of agency action
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security disability benefits
- federal civil procedure
- administrative law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the magistrate judge's memorandum opinion and recommendation contained clear error on the face of the record.
2. Whether the Commissioner's decision finding that Plaintiff was not disabled should be affirmed.

HOLDINGS

1. Because no objections were filed, the district court was required to determine whether the recommendation contained clear error on the face of the record; the court found no clear error and accepted the recommendation.
2. The Commissioner's decision finding Plaintiff not disabled was affirmed, and the action was dismissed with prejudice.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Because there are no objections, the Court “must ‘only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.’”” (Order)

“Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the Commissioner’s decision finding no disability be AFFIRMED.” (Order)

“It is further ORDERED that Defendant’s Dispositive Brief, D.E. 10, be GRANTED, and that this action be DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE.” (Order)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff sought judicial review of the Commissioner's determination that she was not disabled under the Social Security Act. The district court reviewed the magistrate judge's recommendation and the administrative decision, with no objections having been filed.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The magistrate judge issued a memorandum opinion and recommendation on February 26, 2026. Because neither party objected, the district court reviewed the recommendation for clear error, found none, affirmed the Commissioner's no-disability decision, denied Plaintiff's dispositive brief, granted Defendant's dispositive brief, and dismissed the action with prejudice.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co., 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA DEBORAH B., Plaintiff, v. 1:25-CV-032-DAB-JEP FRANK BISIGNANO,1 Commissioner of Social Security, Defendant. ORDER This matter is before the Court for review of the Opinion and Recommendation filed on February 26, 2026. Memorandum Opinion and Recommendation of United States Magistrate Judge, D.E.

12 (Feb. 26, 2026). Because there are no objections, the Court “must ‘only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.’” *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 72 advisory committee’s note). This Court has reviewed the Recommendation and concludes it contains no clear error.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the Commissioner’s decision finding no disability be AFFIRMED. It is further ORDERED that Plaintiff’s Dispositive Brief, D.E. 8, be DENIED. It is further ORDERED that Defendant’s Dispositive Brief, D.E. 10, be GRANTED, and that this action be DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE. 1 Frank Bisignano was confirmed as the Commissioner of Social Security on May 6, 2025, and took the oath of office on May 7, 2025.

Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 25(d), Frank Bisignano is substituted as the Defendant in this suit. A Judgment will be entered contemporaneously with this Order. This the 25th day of March, 2026. /s/ David A. Bragdon United States District Judge