The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  

July 13, 2017  

Dear Ranking Member Scott,  

On behalf of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), I write in strong support of the Improving Access to Higher Education Act of 2017 and to thank you for your leadership in bringing this bill to introduction.

We are especially pleased to see the continuation and improvement of the Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSIDs) and a National Coordinating Center to coordinate and evaluate the TPSIDs and to provide technical assistance to families and institutions of higher education. Since their creation in the Higher Education Opportunity Act in 2008, individuals with intellectual disabilities in TPSID programs are experiencing better outcomes in employment and wages, social networks, self-determination, and community living. These programs are effective at helping students with intellectual disabilities find meaningful, competitive employment with increased wages thus helping them achieve financial stability for individuals who may never have had such opportunities before.

AUCD works to advance policies, practices and research that improve the health, education, social and economic well-being of children and adults with disabilities, their families and their communities through a national network of university centers in every state and territory.

We stand ready to work with you to pass this important legislation promoting the benefits of post-secondary education for all students, including those with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Sincerely,

Andrew Imparato  
Executive Director, AUCD