

December 11, 2017

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Education & Workforce Committee
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), I write in strong support for the Improve Access to Higher Education amendment to H.R. 4058, the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act. This amendment includes language from H.R. 3199, a bill which AUCD supports.

We are especially pleased to see this amendment includes 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 work with you on this important legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act and promote the benefits of post-secondary education for all students, including those with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director, AUCD

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