

ABLE Age Adjustment Act

The **ABLE Age Adjustment Act (S. 651, H.R. 1814)** will raise the age from **26 to 46** for people with disabilities to have **ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience)** accounts.

ABLE accounts are designed to help individuals with disabilities to save for and pay for disability-related expenses (like housing, transportation, personal support services, health care costs, etc). Right now, to open an account, an individual must have a disability that began before the individual turned **26**.

Before ABLE: People with Disabilities

- Having a disability comes with many costs
- Many individuals with disabilities depend on public benefit programs like Social Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.
- There are saving limits (no more than \$2,000) by SSI, Medicaid, and other federal means-tested benefits programs.
- Limited ability to save and work while receiving public benefits.

Passage of ABLE Act: People with disabilities could save money better.

- Stephen J. Beck Achieving a Better Life Experience Act was signed into law in December 2014.
- Allows each state to establish or partner with another state to offer a “qualified ABLE program” that would allow residents of their state to open ABLE accounts.
- Makes it possible for individuals with disabilities to build savings and save for current and future expenses.

What are ABLE Accounts? Savings accounts so you can save and pay for what you need.

- Ownership: Account is owned by individuals with disabilities that happen before age 26
- Independence: Opportunities for saving up to \$100,000
- Tax Benefits: Earnings are tax-free on the state and federal level
- Freedom: Does not impact your benefit programs (SSI and Medicaid)

ABLE Today: There have been amendments to the first bill. An amendment is to add language to a bill that has already been written.

- 2015 amendment: Allows individuals to sign up for any state plan and states have partnered with other states to join together to provide ABLE plans
- 2017 amendment: Owners can move funds from 529 accounts to ABLE Accounts and gives amounts allowed to save per year based on employment status.
- 2019 amendment: ABLE Age Adjustment Act is pending (15 co-sponsors in Senate, 36 co-sponsors in House)

Action Needed: Educate others about the importance of ABLE accounts.

- In order for ABLE accounts to continue, about 390,000 funded accounts are needed by June 2021. Currently, there are only 17,000 open accounts.
- Passage of the ABLE Age Adjustment Act will provide access to nearly 6 million more people with disabilities helping to make ABLE accounts to continue to happen.
- Reach out to your members of Congress sharing them the importance of ABLE accounts and the need for this amendment.