



November 18, 2022

Majority Leader Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Pelosi
U.S. House
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader McCarthy
U.S. House
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD) writes to urge you to pass several pieces of legislation and policies before the end of the 117th Congress. Founded in 2007, the Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD) is a national advocacy coalition of organizations representing people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities and their families, disability service agencies, and other individuals with experience and expertise. The mission of CPSD is to push for major systemic reform of the nation's disability laws and programs to advance economic security, enhance integrated community participation, and increase opportunities for people with disabilities so that they can lead self-determined lives.

As Congress returns to finish out the 117th Congress, we respectfully urge you to pass the following pieces of legislation and policies which are critically important to the lives of people with disabilities:

- **ABLE Age Adjustment Act (S. 331/H.R. 1219)**- The bipartisan, bicameral ABLE Age Adjustment Act would allow people who develop their disabilities before age 46 to establish ABLE accounts, allowing them to save for future expenses without placing needed disability services, health care, and income support at risk. We are so thankful that the Senate Finance Committee's recent bipartisan and unanimous vote to advance the EARN Act included the ABLE Age Adjustment Act, and that this addition is fully paid for.
- **RISE Act (S. 2550/H.R. 4786)**- The bipartisan, bicameral RISE Act would allow all students with disabilities to submit their Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 Plan, or prior evaluation as documentation of their disability to obtain

accommodations in college, so the students do not need to go to the expense and trouble of obtaining a new evaluation prior to attending a college or university.

- **Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act (S.1437)**- The bipartisan Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to revise the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system to create a distinct classification for direct support professionals (DSPs). The creation of an occupational classification for DSPs is a necessary first step in addressing a decades-long workforce crisis that threatens individuals with disabilities' access to critical supports and services through the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program. The HCBS program supports individuals with disabilities to live full and independent lives in the community. The backbone of these services are the DSPs who not only provide essential caregiving services, but also promote independence and community inclusion through services that range from coaching and career development to assistance in pursuing personal goals and aiding activities of daily living, such as meal preparation, medication management, and supporting communication.
- **Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (S. 3238/H.R. 2373)**- The bipartisan, bicameral Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act would implement a multi-year phase out Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act that allows employers to apply for special certificates from the U.S. Department of Labor to pay people with disabilities a subminimum wage.
- **Medicaid Money Follows the Person Program**- Permanently authorize and fund the Money Follows the Person program which allows people with disabilities to move out of nursing facilities and other institutions and into the community. Without permanent funding, states are unable to make long-term investments in the program and establish the necessary foundation to implement the program.

Again, we urge you to pass and enact the above pieces of legislation and policies before the end of the 117th Congress. Should you have any questions, please contact Cyrus Huncharek at cyrus@ndsccenter.org.

Sincerely,

Allies for Independence
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
CareSource
Center for Public Representation
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Disability Institute

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Down Syndrome Congress
TASH