



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES  
THE LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH NETWORK

January 31, 2019

Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers  
1314 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers

On behalf of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), I am pleased to endorse the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act.

AUCD envisions a future in which all people, including those living with developmental and other disabilities, are fully included, participating members of their communities. This includes equitable access to supports and services that reflect the preferences and values of diverse communities and that lead to self-determination, independence, productivity, and a healthy and satisfying quality of life. The Transformation to Competitive Employment Act clearly supports that vision by phasing out Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and thoughtfully provides the resources necessary to allow for the transition to a competitive integrated employment (CIE) business model. This bill represents tangible, life changing opportunities for people with disabilities and their families.

AUCD is a national network of university-based interdisciplinary centers and programs in every state and territory that serves as a bridge between the university and the community, bringing together the resources of both to achieve meaningful change for people with disabilities. It is through this network that we understand the real-world consequences of poverty, segregation and reliance on public assistance experienced by those who are still legally being paid a subminimum wage and what this bill could mean for them.

However, as this bill makes clear, the end of Section 14(c) is only the beginning. It is crucial that fair wages are earned in a non-segregated work environment with a plan for capacity building and implementation of adaptive CIE business models. AUCD also supports the inclusion of improved data collection and a method for measurable employment outcomes to better understand and account for future applications. The holistic approach outlined in the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act, will fundamentally shift employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

AUCD truly appreciates the efforts and leadership required to make the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act a reality and plans to do all we can to support the bill moving forward. If you have any questions, you can reach me at 240 821-9370 or [aimparato@aucd.org](mailto:aimparato@aucd.org) or our Policy Director, Rylin Rodgers, at 240 821-9381 or [rrodgers@aucd.org](mailto:rrodgers@aucd.org).

Sincerely,

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