



January 6, 2020

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senator
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), I am writing to thank you for proposing Work Without Worry Act. We wish to express our support for this important piece of legislation, which recognizes that current Social Security Income (SSI) requirements affect people with disabilities' affect to reach their full potential at work while maintaining a needed safety net if their employment does not continue. We are grateful for your work in this area.

ANCOR is a national, nonprofit trade association representing more than 1,600 private community providers of services to people with disabilities. Combined, we support over one million individuals with disabilities, and work to shape policy, share solutions and strengthen the community. Our members help individuals with tailored supports, including help finding employment, so this legislation resonates with us.

Currently, individuals whose disabilities occurred before the age of 22 can receive a benefit based on the work history of a disabled, retired or deceased parent. This benefit grants individuals with disabilities, who face greater poverty and employment challenges than their peers without disabilities, needed financial security. However, this benefit ends if an individual earns more than \$1,220 – which is oftentimes not enough to cover medical and other expenses associated with having a disability. As such, parents whose children receive the benefit might seek to prevent their children for working to not lose that financial security. We applaud your effort to give those parents peace of mind, particularly as they age and seek to ensure their children will be able to live full lives in the future without them.

Helping people with disabilities work without losing peace of mind about access to a needed safety net is an important way of ensuring people with disabilities can live full and independent lives. Supporting access to work is also a way to reverse decades-old trends of isolating people with disabilities because of their differences. Thank you for your championship of this issue.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on this important matter. Please reach out to me at smeek@ancor.org if you need anything – we are happy to be a resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Meek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" and last name "Meek" clearly distinguishable.

Sarah Meek
Senior Director of Legislative Affairs