



October 12, 2018

The Honorable Robert Casey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

The undersigned members of the following Task Forces of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD): the Employment and Training Task Force and the Rights Task Force commend you for introducing the Disability Employment Incentive Act (DEIA) of 2018. CCD is a coalition of national disability rights, advocacy, consumer, provider and self-advocates organizations representing this nation's 61 million Americans with disabilities. Our task forces are particularly interested in ensuring opportunities for competitive integrated employment for all working age individuals with disabilities and assuring their rights in the workforce and in all aspects of daily life.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) has been an important tool for many years to advance opportunities for those with significant barriers to employment, including those with disabilities. For companies that hire certain individuals with disabilities, the DEIA would increase the level of salary to which the credit can be applied and allow the use of the credit into the second year of a person's employment. Not only will this expand the types of jobs available to people with disabilities but it will also promote their retention in those jobs.

Also of interest to our organizations are the improvements your legislation makes to the Disability Access Tax Credit and Architectural and Transportation Barrier Tax Deduction. The DEIA will increase the value of and the number of businesses eligible for the tax credit and raise the deduction for expenses incurred by a business in removing existing physical barriers in qualified facilities or transportation vehicles. The thresholds of these tax provisions have not been increased in many years and the reforms in your bill are long overdue. Moreover, expanding and increasing the tax credit for making modifications needed for accessibility is a far more sensible means of improving businesses' compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) than the legislative attacks that have been levelled at the ADA in recent years by those who seek to undermine the protections of that civil rights law.

Thank you for sponsoring the DEIA and for your strong advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities. We look forward to working with you to ensure its passage.

ACCSES

American Association of People with Disabilities
American Council of the Blind
American Foundation for the Blind
American Network of Community Options and Resources
American Psychological Association
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bazelon Center
Center for Public Representation
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Easterseals
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Lutheran Services in America
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization on Disability
Paralyzed Veterans of America
TASH
The Arc of the United States
United Spinal Association