



May 16, 2017

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Sanders, Representative Scott, and Representative Ellison,

The National Association of Councils on Disabilities (NACDD) writes to thank you for introducing the Raise the Wage Act. Persons with disabilities and the direct support and other professionals that work with them, need to be paid a fair and living wage to ensure that people with disabilities have opportunities to be employed in their communities and be economically self-sufficient. NACDD supports increasing and indexing the federal minimum wage to increase economic security for people with disabilities and their families.

NACDD is the national membership association for the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities located in every US state and territory. The DD Councils work to implement the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act by changing and building capacity in communities to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have access to services, and individualized supports that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life. NACDD believes that persons with developmental disabilities should have access to the resources needed to seek, obtain and be successful in competitive integrated employment.

NACDD specifically supports the section regarding *Promoting Economic Self-Sufficiency for Individuals with Disabilities*. NACDD is pleased to see that the bill includes a transition to fair wages for individuals with disabilities, a prohibition on issuing new certificates, and the phase-out of existing certificates under 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Furthermore, NACDD is pleased to see that the bill includes transition assistance by the Secretary to provide information and technical assistance to employers to help them transition their practices from subminimum wage to fair wages. NACDD believes that employers will need training and technical assistance to make this transition; additional infrastructure and supports will also be needed to help individuals successfully transition from subminimum to fair wages.

NACDD looks forward to working with all of your offices to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to be employed in competitive employment in their communities and receive fair wages for their work. For more information, please contact Cindy Smith, Director of Public Policy at (202) 506-5813 ext. 104 or [csmith@nacdd.org](mailto:csmith@nacdd.org).

Sincerely,

Donna Meltzer  
Chief Executive Officer, NACDD