



May 16, 2017

Senator Patti Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health Education
Labor and Pensions
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Representative Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education and the
Workforce
1201 Longworth House Office
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee
322 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Keith Ellison
Ranking Member
House Financial Services Committee
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Murray and Sanders and Representatives Scott and Ellison,

I am writing on behalf of the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) in support of your amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act that would promote economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities. NDSC is the leading national resource for anyone touched by Down syndrome. We are a member-sustained, nonprofit organization that works to promote the interests of people with Down syndrome and their families through advocacy, public awareness, and information.

I would like to express our appreciation for your support of the proposed amendment which is designed to phase out Section 14(c) of the Fair Standard Labor Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 214 (c) 214©(1)). This amendment would gradually increase the subminimum wage for people with disabilities in subminimum wage over several years. It also prohibits issuance of new 14 (c) certificates (certificates which enable employers to pay subminimum wage) after the date of enactment of the amendment.

We agree with the statement of APSE, an organization promoting “employment first,” “Individuals don’t need sub-minimum wage for employment success: The underlying rationale for the existence of sub-minimum wage has been that it creates employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, which would not otherwise be available. Yet the evidence to the contrary in recent years is quite clear: that with proper planning, the right job match, the right

supports, and right funding incentives, that even individuals with the most significant disabilities can work successfully in the community at minimum wage or higher.”

Thank you for your ongoing leadership to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

David Tolleson, Executive Director

<http://www.apse.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/APSE-Subminimum-Wage-Policy-Statement-10.091.pdf>