DocuSign Envelope ID: 2B3B44D2-FBD0-42A8-AA16-440C2FF43C3A

U.S. ABILITYONE COMMISSION

April 16, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Soraya Correa
President and CEO-elect
National Industries for the Blind (NIB)
3000 Potomac Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305

Mr. Jeffrey Mittman
President
National Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind (NAEPB)
3000 Potomac Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305

Dear Ms. Correa and Mr. Mittman:

I write in response to your March 27, 2024, letter informing the U.S. AbilityOne Commission that NIB and NAEPB intend to ask Congress again this year to adopt an AbilityOne utilization goal of one percent for the Department of Defense (DoD). Your letter noted that NIB and NAEPB are joined in this effort by SourceAmerica and the National Council of SourceAmerica Employers (NCSE). You further requested that the U.S. AbilityOne Commission (Commission) join you in expressing support for the utilization goal.

Because there has not been a major update to the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act in over half a century, in its strategic plan, the Commission set an outcome goal to work effectively with Congress to amend the JWOD Act to support competitive integrated employment (CIE) for people who are blind or have significant disabilities.

In pursuit of that goal, in April 2023, the Commission sent Congress three legislative proposals which, if enacted, would give the Commission tools to add jobs featuring greater integrated employment, address agency concerns about the length of the process to make changes to the Procurement List, and update the Commission's legal name as a statement of its identity.

In crafting these legislative proposals, the Commission obtained concurrence across the executive branch and from the Office of Management and Budget.

We believe that the proposal to establish pilot project authority will expand and diversify career opportunities for Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities. The proposal to publish proposed Procurement List actions in www.sam.gov for shorter notice periods will reduce the time required for Procurement List additions, better meeting the needs of federal agencies.

The Commission anticipates that these proposals will advance our efforts to modernize the AbilityOne Program, increase customer support, and help increase good and optimal jobs.

It is my hope that NIB, NAEPB, SourceAmerica, and NCSE will all actively support the AbilityOne Commission's legislative proposals.

DocuSign Envelope ID: 2B3B44D2-FBD0-42A8-AA16-440C2FF43C3A

I have attached these proposals for your convenience.

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Jeffrey A. Koses

21BD80B9E8AC4A0...

Jeffrey A. Koses
Chairperson

Attachment