



## Support A

### Appropriations for State Councils on Developmental Disabilities

**Issue:** For over 55 years, Congress has funded DD Councils to support policy change and programs that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion for all people in the United States with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

#### Real Life National Impact:

- In 1977, 84% of people with I/DD lived in institutional settings. Now, it's less than 8%, thanks in part to the work of the DD Councils and their DD Act partners.
- DD Councils helped integrated employment grow 17% from 2011 to 2018, and it's still a top priority.
- 2.8 million people with lived experience with I/DD participate in DD Council activities today. 53,570 of those are participating in advocacy to create change.
- 1,232 policies, procedures, statutes, and regulations were created or changed by DD Council efforts in one year alone.

**Real Life State Impact:** Check your DD Council website and highlight activities! Use an example like this one from Kansas:

- Kansas ABLE Roadshow and Empowerment Grant. The Kansas DD Council partnered with the state treasurer and Kansas ABLE Savings Program and leveraged private funding to offer grants of \$100 for individuals who opened up an ABLE account and attended a roadshow session. As a result, 392 people completed educational sessions, resulting in 543 new ABLE accounts and contributing to nearly 2,000 accounts statewide. See Blog Post [https://kansasstatetreasurer.com/able\\_roadshow.html](https://kansasstatetreasurer.com/able_roadshow.html)

**Summary of DD Council Appropriations Request:** \$85 million for DD Councils to support model programs and grant projects that have increased access for inclusive education, housing, transportation, employment, and secondary transition services for persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

#### Take Action to Add Your Support as a Cosponsor of the Appropriations Request!

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## **Cosponsor the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Restoration Act (S.4001)**

**Issue:** SSI supports low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and children with disabilities. It is the only federal income support for many children with disabilities. To receive HCBS through Medicaid, applicants usually must have income below SSI levels. SSI's asset limit is \$2,000, unchanged since 1989. If it had kept up with inflation, it would be about \$10,000 today. The program has not been meaningfully updated since 1972.

**Real-Life Impact:** Outdated SSI income and asset limits punish work, saving, and planning. Because of the outdated rules approximately 70,000 beneficiaries have their benefits suspended each year and 40,000 beneficiaries have their benefits terminated entirely due to these limits.

Karen Williams (age 63), had \$1,900 in life insurance cash value plus \$260 in savings. That \$2,160 total triggered the asset limit, exceeding the \$2,000 cap. SSI terminated her benefits and demanded repayment of \$20,385 in past benefits with only 30 days to pay.

### **Summary of SSI Restoration Act:**

- Income: Raises income disregards to \$157/month (general), \$512/month (earned)
- Assets: Updates limits to \$10,000 (individual) / \$20,000 (couple)
- Benefits: Sets SSI to at least 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, eliminates marriage penalty
- Removes Penalties: Ends penalties for in-kind support, resource transfers, state taxes, and tribal benefits
- Simplifies: Streamlines lump-sum/back payments and reduces SSA burden
- Expansion: Includes Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa

### **Take Action to Add Your Support as a Cosponsor!**

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## **Cosponsor the Transformation to Competitive and Integrated Employment Act (H.R. 4771 / S. 2438)**

**Issue:** Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, created over 85 years ago, allows employers to pay workers with disabilities less than minimum wage. Workers with disabilities under Section 14(c), earned an average of **\$4.15/hour** in 2023; over half made **<\$3.50/hour**, some as little as **\$0.25/hour**, perpetuating poverty and economic disparity. (GAO, 2023) According to the Department of Labor, over 1,100 employers hold active 14(c) certificates that allow more than 40,000 workers to be paid less than minimum wage. The majority of workers in 14(c) settings have intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Sheltered workshops isolate workers from nondisabled peers, restrict skill development, and rarely lead to integrated employment. (GAO, 2023; Urban Institute, 2023) People with disabilities have lower labor-force participation and earn less than nondisabled peers; subminimum wage rules deepen these disparities. (BLS, 2024; GAO, 2023)

**Real Life Impact:** David Pinno, a former 14(c) worker from Wisconsin worked in a sheltered workshop in Wisconsin where he was paid \$4.28 per hour for the same work as people without disabilities who got paid much more at minimum wage. He left the workshop to work for above minimum wage at McDonald's and Goodwill and was eventually able to own his own home, something that would not have been possible if he had remained in the 14(c) workshop.

### **Summary of TCIEA:**

- Phases out subminimum wages under Section 14(c), ensuring people with disabilities are paid fairly for their work.
- Provides grants, training, and technical assistance to states and employers to support the transition from segregated to inclusive workplaces.
- Monitors outcomes such as job placements, wages, and workforce integration to measure progress and success.

### **Take Action to Add Your Support as a Cosponsor!**

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