



Jennifer Stonemeier
Executive Director
National APSE

May 21, 2019

Chairman Bobby Scott
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Scott:

The Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), is writing to express our continued support for the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act, as well as our gratitude for its inclusion as part of the discussion at today's Education & Labor Committee hearing on Eliminating Barriers to Employment.

As the only national organization with an exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities, we are particularly excited to see proposed legislation that will have such a direct and positive impact the financial security and quality of life for the people we serve. The proposed bill will result in a thoughtful **phasing out of subminimum wage**, which remains a legacy of Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA, 1938). APSE has been advocating for this since 2009. We invite you to read our most recent [statement and recommendations](#) in support of this effort.

If passed, the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act will end the use of 14(c) certificates, ensuring that workers with disabilities have the right to earn the same wage for the same work as anyone else. This is a necessary step in achieving the full intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which aims to advance the economic self-sufficiency of people with disabilities. Furthermore, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 established competitive, integrated employment as a priority, ensuring that people with disabilities work in mainstream jobs alongside, and are paid comparable wages to co-workers without disabilities

APSE has state chapters in 40 states and the District of Columbia, and has membership in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. As an organization that cares deeply about the overall health and well-being of people with disabilities, this bill will allow states to develop the capacity and receive the supports necessary to successfully transition business models and programs to CIE for people with disabilities.

www.apse.org
7361 Calhoun Place, Suite 680
Rockville, MD 20855
Phone: 301.279.0060
Fax: 301.279.0075



Jennifer Stonemeier
Executive Director
National APSE

We urge Congress to continue to work in a bipartisan manner to address the economic disparities and unnecessary segregation of people with disabilities, including those with the most significant disabilities, that is sustained through continued utilization of the subminimum wage. APSE stands ready to assist in whatever manner is helpful.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please contact Julie Christensen, Director of Policy & Advocacy (julie@apse.org or 301-279-0060 x206) or Jenny Stonemeier, Executive Director (jstonemeier@apse.org or 301-279-0060 x201) if you have any questions or to follow up on this letter.

Sincerely,

Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
Colorado APSE
Iowa APSE
Louisiana APSE
Maine APSE
Ohio APSE
Oregon APSE
Pennsylvania APSE
Washington APSE
Wyoming APSE

www.apse.org
7361 Calhoun Place, Suite 680
Rockville, MD 20855
Phone: 301.279.0060
Fax: 301.279.0075