

Action Alert from National APSE 11/23/2009

ASK YOUR MEMBER TO SUPPORT THE ABLE ACT OF 2009

The **Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) of 2009 (S 493/HR 1205)** has been introduced in both the Senate and House. The ABLE Act will give individuals with disabilities and their families the ability to save for their child's future and help individuals with disabilities live full and productive lives in their communities.

The **ABLE Act** will allow individuals with disabilities to save money through a disability savings accounts or 'ABLE Account'. These accounts will accrue interest tax-free and can be used to pay for variety of expenses, including medical and dental care, education, community based supports, employment training, assistive technology, housing, and transportation.

Importantly, any money held by, or paid or distributed from any ABLE account will not be considered income or assets when determining eligibility for benefits provide by any Federal benefits program.

Asset development is a very important issue and the ABLE Act is one step toward improving economic self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities. The Act will encourage asset development by making it easier for individuals with disabilities to live more productive lives through earning and saving resources for their future.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Contact your Representative and/or Senator and ask that they support S. 493/H.R. 1205. Explain the importance of this legislation and the impact that the Act will have on the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Talking Points When Speaking with Your Senators and Representative:

- I am calling to ask my [Senator/Representative] to cosponsor the ***Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) of 2009 (S 493/HR 1205)*** led by Senators Casey (D-PA), Hatch (R-UT), Dodd (D-CT), Brownback (R-KS), and Burr (R-NC) and Representatives Crenshaw (R-FL), Meek (D-FL), Kennedy (D-RI), and McMorris Rodgers (R-WA).
- The legislation encourages individuals with disabilities to save money in order to live an independent and meaningful life. A person's dependency on public benefits will be decreased as a result of the creation of 'ABLE Accounts'.
- The Act allows individuals with disabilities an avenue to save resources in order to pay for certain expenses, including: medical and dental care, education, community based supports, employment training, assistive technology, housing, and transportation.

Thank You!

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