



## **Action Alert from National APSE 7/6/2010**

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*Contact Your Representatives to Convene a Hearing on the ABLE Act!*

### **BACKGROUND:**

APSE urges its members to contact their local Representative and ask them to convene a hearing on a very important piece of legislation – the ABLE Act of 2009. The ABLE Act, 'Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2009' (H.R. 1205/S. 493) gives individuals with disabilities the freedom to save money in tax-exempt savings accounts called ABLE Accounts.

The ABLE Act is an important step in ensuring that individuals with disabilities are given an opportunity to save for their future. The money saved in an ABLE Account would be able to be used to pay for certain expenses, including education, housing, transportation, employment support, medical care, and certain life necessities. Furthermore, the ABLE Act will reduce the barriers to employment faced by individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities will now be able to save money in order to help pay for costs associated with employment supports, a critical need of so many individuals with disabilities in order to maintain their employment.

The ABLE Act is a positive step forward in ensuring that individuals with disabilities are capable of saving their earnings without facing penalty or the prospect of losing their benefits. Giving individuals with disabilities the chance to establish an 'ABLE Account' is an effective way to better the lives of individuals with disabilities and encourage responsible asset development.

### **BILL STATUS:**

#### **House bill (H.R. 1205)**

2/26/2009 - Introduced and referred to the [Committee on Ways and Means](#) and [Committee on Energy and Commerce](#)

#### **Senate bill (S. 493)**

2/26/2009 - Introduced and referred to the [Committee on Finance](#)

## **TAKE ACTION:**

### **Call Your Representative's DISTRICT Home Office!!!**

To find out who your representative is, visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and type in your full zip code! Click [here](#) to get your complete zip code!

Call your Representative's home district office during the Independence Day recess: July 2<sup>nd</sup> – July 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **SAMPLE SCRIPT:**

- May I please speak to the staff person who covers disability issues, please?
- My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent of Representative \_\_\_\_\_'s.
- I am calling to ask that Representative \_\_\_\_\_ asks Ways and Means Chairman Levin to convene a hearing on the ABLE Act (H.R. 1205/S. 493).
- Also, I ask Representative \_\_\_\_\_ to encourage House leadership to schedule a vote on the ABLE Act during this Congress.
- It is critical that the ABLE Act passes because it encourages persons with disabilities to save in order to live an independent and meaningful life while reducing their dependency on public benefits.
- Thank you for your time today!

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Birmingham, Public Policy Associate at [Stephanie@apse.org](mailto:Stephanie@apse.org). On behalf of APSE, thank you in advance for all of your advocacy efforts!