



July 10, 2013

NBC Rock Center
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10112

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst (APSE), we would like to thank you for your extraordinary reporting concerning Goodwill's use of subminimum wage for workers with disabilities. NBC News presented this story splendidly by revealing a balanced story exposing the reality that Section 14(c) is an outdated loophole. We know this practice occurs all over the country, outside of Goodwill Industries, and we commend you for bringing this to the attention of the general public.

As an organization that promotes national, state, and local policy development which enhances the social and economic inclusion of individuals with disabilities, we greatly appreciate your leadership. Sadly, this discriminatory practice exists across the country and is used by many non-profits under the guise of "informed choice" to lower expectations for people with disabilities resulting in a cycle of government dependence and poverty. It is our hope that your efforts and the hard work of NBC News will help lead future investigations and media coverage into this harmful practice.

APSE is the only national organization with an exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities. As a growing national non-profit organization, we work hard to advocate for social change to help individuals with disabilities achieve a lifestyle that approximates that of individuals without disabilities. We strongly affirm the belief that the practice of paying individuals with disabilities sub-minimum wage is a national issue that perpetuates the soft bigotry of low expectations and a life of segregation and exploitation of individuals with disabilities. Last month, at our 24th Annual APSE Conference your story was featured and discussed in many sessions as a beacon of hope for all of our members who have been fighting against this injustice for years.

In 2009, APSE took a strong stance calling for the phase out of sub-minimum wage by 2014. A central focus of our efforts has been to phase out the use of sub-minimum wage and to accompany this change with a comprehensive national systems change movement based on the principle that employment in the community by the first and preferred service option for service recipients – i.e., Employment First. As part of such a systems change effort, technical assistance and supports should be provided in order to move the individuals receiving sub-minimum wage into employment opportunities in the community at minimum wage or higher.

APSE, has 37 chapters, representing nearly 3,000 members made up of, and working on behalf of, Americans with disabilities, from all 50 states, and we would welcome any opportunity to

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provide you with additional information. Thank you again for your dedication to journalistic excellence to help abolish the unjust and discriminatory practice of paying workers as low as 3 cents an hour. You are on the cutting edge of the next great civil rights movement!

Sincerely,

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