

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



CHAIRMAN Special Committee on Aging

ABLE Awareness Act

In 2014, Senator Bob Casey passed the *Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act*. The ABLE program allows people with disabilities to save more than the \$2,000 asset limit required in many Federal assistance programs, such as Supplemental Security Income. People can spend the funds they save on disability expenses such as assistive technology, home modifications, and much more. Over the past ten years, the ABLE program has helped 171,571 people with disabilities across the United States save an average of \$11,186. Without ABLE, these people would not have been allowed to save past the \$2,000 asset limit required in many Federal assistance programs. However, despite the program's positive impact, only a fraction of the eight million Americans with disabilities who are ABLE-eligible have opened an account. As the eligibility for ABLE accounts increases to include an additional six million people in 2026, it is more important than ever that people are aware of the ABLE program's eligibility requirements and how they can open an account.

How does the ABLE Awareness Act Help?

The *ABLE Awareness Act* will help ensure more people are able to benefit from the ABLE programs by requiring federal and state agencies to inform people about its existence, its eligibility requirements, and existing resources that can help them open an account when they enroll in certain benefits programs. In addition to agency outreach, the *ABLE Awareness Act* also creates a grant program for states or consortiums of states to apply for funds to advertise for the ABLE program through initiatives such as media buys, billboard advertisements, and other avenues. The grant program is funded at \$50 million per year for four years. By spreading awareness of the ABLE program and the benefits it provides, the bill will ensure that many more people with disabilities can open ABLE accounts and save for their futures.

Supporting Organizations: The Arc of the United States, CommunicationFirst, ANCOR, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST), the National Down Syndrome Congress, the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), the Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation, the Jewish Federations of North America, and TASH.