

Wounded Warrior Project
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October 11, 2019

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey,

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) is committed to empowering our nation's wounded, ill, and injured veterans through programs, services, and advocacy to help them thrive in the communities where they live and work. While our mission often brings our focus to veteran-specific legislation, I write today to share WWP's support for the *Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Age Adjustment Act* and what it proposes to do for Americans with disabilities, including thousands of veterans we serve.

As you know, ABLE accounts were established to provide certain individuals with disabilities with tax-advantaged savings accounts to pay for disability-related expenses. For many, a critical feature of ABLE accounts is the ability to work and save money without jeopardizing access to important federal programs like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. For veterans who have suffered catastrophic injuries, ABLE accounts can be a valuable tool to plan for the future and pay for health and quality of life expenses that the Department of Veterans Affairs may not be able to cover.

Under current law, ABLE accounts are only available to those who became disabled before the age of 26. According to Department of Defense data, the average age of an enlisted service member who retires from the military due to disability is 34.4 years old. For officers, the average is 39.2 years old. By expanding the program's eligibility to age 46, the *ABLE Age Adjustment Act* will allow many of the warriors we serve to invest in their long-term goals and achieve the resiliency, independence, and confidence we seek to foster.

Wounded Warrior Project proudly supports the *ABLE Age Adjustment Act* and applauds you for your advocacy on behalf the disabled population. Please include us on any future efforts being taken to ensure that this important piece of legislation becomes law.

Sincerely,

Jose Ramos
Vice President of Government
& Community Relations

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