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Disability Rights Iowa
LEGAL PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

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March 1, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

As organizations representing people with disabilities in the state of Iowa, we write to express our support for the ABLE Age Adjustment Act (S. 331). Collectively, our organizations advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities in Iowa. We know that the ABLE Age Adjustment Act is a critical bill that will improve the lives of people with disabilities across our state.

Previously introduced in the 114th, 115th and 116th Congresses, the ABLE age Adjustment Act improves upon the Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act (PL 113-295), which was signed into law in December 2014 as one of the most bipartisan bills in recent history. The ABLE Act created a new type of tax-favored account to enable people with disabilities to save for and pay for disability-related expenses including education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, health, prevention and wellness, and financial management. Importantly, resources saved in an ABLE account are not taken into consideration when determining the individual's eligibility for federally funded means tested benefits, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. The opportunity provided through the ABLE Act to assist in securing more financial stability for individuals with disabilities and their families is profound.

Unfortunately, ABLE accounts are only available to people whose disability onset prior to their 26th birthday. According to the National Disability Institute, approximately 6.1 million individuals who could benefit from ABLE accounts currently are excluded. Many conditions and disabilities can occur later in

life, such as multiple sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease, or paralysis due to an accident. Additionally, veterans who become disabled as a result of their service after age 25 are currently ineligible for ABLE accounts. The ABLE Age Adjustment Act would amend Section 529A(e) of the Internal Revenue Code to increase the eligibility threshold for ABLE accounts for onset of disability prior to age 46.

According to recent estimates from the ABLE National Resource Center, there are now 112,000 accounts across 43 states, including Iowa, and over 1 billion dollars under investment. Passing the ABLE Age Adjustment Act would nearly double the currently eligible population and improve the sustainability of ABLE programs nationwide. Most importantly, this bill would enable otherwise-eligible people with a variety of later-onset disabilities, (many of whom spent years advocating for the original ABLE Act) to realize the benefits of ABLE accounts to increase their financial security without jeopardizing their much-needed public benefits.

We hope you show your continued commitment to the financial security of all Iowans with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Iowa Organizations

Disability Rights Iowa
Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council
Iowa State Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald, administer of IAble
United Spinal Association's Iowa Chapter

National Organizations

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
United Spinal Association