

October 7, 2016

The Honorable Richard M. Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert P. Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Burr and Casey:

On behalf of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, I am writing to applaud you on your longstanding and steadfast leadership on issues of importance to differently abled persons through your successful efforts to win Senate Finance Committee support for the ABLE to Work Act (S.2702) and the ABLE Financial Planning Act (S.2703).

The Global Down Syndrome Foundation is dedicated to significantly improving the lives of people with Down syndrome through research, medical care, education and advocacy. We represent thousands of individuals living with Down syndrome and their families and we are committed to advancing public policy that helps these amazing individuals lead full and productive lives. Your efforts to build upon the foundation established by the first ABLE Act, which permits families who have a child with a disability to save for their long-term care through 529-style savings accounts, represents a significant advance. This effort was widely heralded as one of the most important pieces of legislation for our community since passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

Your legislation would extend ABLE by permitting families to save more money in an ABLE account if the beneficiary works and earns income and by allowing families to roll over savings in a 529 college savings plan into an ABLE account. These changes will provide families with valuable new tools as family members with Down syndrome pursue meaningful work and independence.

As we celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October, it is appropriate that we celebrate this achievement and redouble our advocacy to encourage your Senate colleagues to support final passage of this legislation during the upcoming post-election session of Congress. Know that we are your partners in this effort and we will continue to mobilize our community to send a strong and clear message to Congress that we must pass the ABLE to Work Act and the ABLE Financial Planning Act before the end of the 114th session of Congress.

Thank you again for your leadership and friendship and let us know if there is anything else we can do to support your good work.

Sincerely,