



May 15, 2026

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman, Committee on Education & the
Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member, Committee on Education &
the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce, Position on H.R. 8736 (119), *Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act*

Dear Chair Walberg and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce (AEAW; the Alliance), I am writing to share our perspective regarding H.R. 8736 (119), the *Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act*. While our coalition deeply respects the bill's sponsor, Congressman Glenn Grothman, and truly values his longstanding, zealous advocacy for people with disabilities, we write to state respectfully our concern regarding this specific legislative initiative.

The Alliance firmly believes that pre-vocational training, personal agency, and individualized career pathways are critical tools to promote the long-term success of young adults with disabilities. These essential support mechanisms foster individual choice and empower individuals with disabilities to achieve financial independence and personal fulfillment. From our organization's inception, we have proudly championed the viability of employment settings that help people access these tools – such as those of our member organizations – and, as a coalition, we have committed to the idea that they can be provided fully and successfully without reliance on Section 14(c) certificates. Reflecting this core belief, our foundational members set membership criteria that strictly prohibit any AEAW member organization from holding an active 14(c) certificate. Collectively, our more than two dozen members employ thousands of people with disabilities across the country, all at competitive wages.

Accordingly, we support policies that align with this vision, such as the AbilityOne Program's policy to prohibit the use of 14(c) certificates on its contracts. AEAW actively endorses legislative frameworks like HR. 4771 (119), the *Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act*, which seeks to maximize robust, fully integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities nationwide while building the capacity of service providers to transition to modern, competitive workforce models.

Congressman Grothman remains a champion for our community, and we are immensely grateful for his ongoing commitment to expanding dialogue around employment options. While we do diverge on this specific policy mechanism, we look forward to working collaboratively with Congressman Grothman, this Committee, and all stakeholders to expand sustainable, high-quality, and integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and for your continued leadership on this Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bartholomew N. Devon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Bartholomew N. Devon, Ed.M, MELP, Esq.
Executive Director
Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce

About The Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce:

The Alliance for Expanding America's Workforce (AEAW) is an independent, nationwide coalition of government contractors, advocates, and seasoned employers dedicated to modernizing federal procurement, hiring practices, and employment policies to drive greater workforce success for people with disabilities. Grounded in real-world expertise and cross-sector collaboration, AEAW works to dismantle systemic employment barriers, optimize federal purchasing by tapping into this highly effective talent pool, and reinforce the AbilityOne Program, the nation's largest economic empowerment engine for Americans with disabilities. By connecting stakeholders across disability policy and workforce development, AEAW serves as a trusted national resource committed to advancing holistic, bipartisan strategies that increase community engagement, reduce benefit dependency, and expand meaningful career opportunities.