



May 20, 2026

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Opposition to the Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act (HR 8736)

On behalf of the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), I'm writing in opposition to the Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act (HR 8736).

APSE is the only national, non-profit membership organization dedicated to Employment First – a vision that all people with disabilities have a right to competitive employment in an inclusive workforce. It is our understanding that this proposed legislation will be marked up by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on Thursday, May 21, 2026. We respectfully urge you to oppose this legislation.

The bill would weaken existing workforce protections for young adults with disabilities by lowering the eligibility age for subminimum wage employment from 24 to 18. Under Section 511 of the Rehabilitation Act¹, young people with disabilities currently receive important transition services, vocational rehabilitation support, and career counseling intended to help them pursue competitive integrated employment before entering segregated work settings where they may be paid below minimum wage.

APSE has been opposed to the payment of subminimum wages and the use of 14(c) certificates issued by the U.S. Department of Labor for decades. Working in coalition, our members have achieved success in seventeen states to date in eliminating this practice through state legislation². APSE is also a firm supported of the Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (HR 4771), which would eliminate this practice nationally.

¹ <https://rsa.ed.gov/sub-regulatory-guidance/section-511-rehabilitation-act-limitations-use-subminimum-wage-faq-21-05>

² <https://apse.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/May26-APSE-14c-Update-REV.pdf>



The proposed legislation that is currently being considered by the Committee is at odds with current law, which aims to expand competitive integrated employment opportunities for people with disabilities³. We respectfully urge you to oppose this legislation and instead champion a continued commitment to ensuring that all Americans have opportunity and access within the general labor market.

Sincerely,

Julie J. Christensen, MSW, PhD
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³ Section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 2014); codified at 34 CFR §§ 361.5(c)(9) and 361.5(c)(32)