



PROJECT CU, INC.
AN AFFILIATE OF CHALLENGE UNLIMITED, INC.

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May 11, 2026

To: Chairman Tim Walberg (MI-5), Ranking Member Bobby Scott (VA-3)
From: Kit Brewer, Executive Director, Project CU Inc.
Vice President, The Coalition for the Preservation of Employment Choice
Legislative Chair, MASWM
Re: Support of the Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act, H.R. 8736

Chairman Walberg & Ranking Member Scott,

I am writing as a parent and advocate, as well as a provider offering a broad range of disability employment and service-related options. In February, I was honored to provide testimony regarding these services and the unique "Missouri Difference" during the House Education and Workforce Committee's Field Hearing titled "Work, Dignity and Choice in Disability Employment."

Missouri distinguishes itself through its interpretation and implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), particularly section 511, which outlines requirements for training and youth participation in FSLA 14c certificate programs. I operate on the principle that all disability services constitute a continuum—one that is non-hierarchical and gapless. The overarching aim is to reduce barriers, enhance successful experiences, and ensure that individuals across a broad spectrum of disabilities have access to opportunities and the support they need.

On behalf of **Project CU, Inc.**, an organization providing employment opportunities to more than 120 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in St. Louis, Missouri; **MASWM**, the Missouri provider's association whose members employ over 5,000 individuals; and the **Coalition for the Preservation of Employment Choice**, I offer our support of the Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act.

We strongly believe this Act will expand employment and training opportunities for students transitioning from school. Section 511 of the WIOA has posed barriers for some students with disabilities. All students deserve the right to graduate and pursue employment or services tailored to their needs. However, WIOA, Section 511 has sometimes been used to restrict options and employment choices available to youth before age 25, leaving them and their families uncertain about their future and, in many cases, without services or employment.

Sincerely,

Kit

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