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The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chair, House Education and Workforce Committee

Dear Chairman Walberg,

My name is Jennifer Tester, and I am an Employment Specialist with Chippewa River Industries. Our organization serves individuals with disabilities by helping them find meaningful opportunities for employment, independence, and community involvement.

I am writing in support of the Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act. This legislation is important to me and to the individuals we serve because it helps preserve employment choice for adults with disabilities while reducing unnecessary barriers that can limit opportunities.

Many individuals with disabilities and their families value having different employment options available based on their personal goals, abilities, and circumstances. Lowering the age threshold from 24 to 18 recognizes that adults should have the ability to make informed decisions about the work settings that best meet their needs. In addition, allowing employers to continue compensating employees under a Section 14(c) certificate when states fail to provide required counseling prevents workers from being negatively impacted by administrative delays outside of their control.

In my experience, employment decisions are deeply personal. Every individual's situation is different, and flexibility is essential to ensuring people can choose the path that provides them with purpose, stability, and dignity. This bill supports that principle by protecting choice while maintaining opportunities for those who rely on these programs.

Thank you for considering my perspective and for your attention to this important issue. I appreciate your leadership on workforce and disability policy matters and respectfully ask for your support of the Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tester

Employment Specialist/Chippewa River Industries

Chippewa Falls, WI