

May 18, 2026

Representative Tim Walberg
Chairman, House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Walberg,

I am writing to you in support of H.R. 8736, the Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act. This bill will correct a provision in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 that prevents intellectually/developmentally disabled (I/DD) adults under age twenty-five from participating in work programs offered by Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs). As you may know, this provision was designed to force I/DD individuals under age twenty-five to apply for services from their state vocational rehabilitation agency before they can attend a work program operating under the special minimum wage. The result has been that many individuals who want to work are being denied the opportunity until they reach age twenty-five, and many are spending most of their time at home or in day programs until they reach that age. This is a tragedy for those who want to work. There is no reason I can think of why these individuals cannot work and train at a CRP while they are simultaneously applying with their state vocational rehabilitation agency.

I am the parent of Christopher, a forty-two-year-old with Down Syndrome who works at a CRP, Kandu Industries, Inc., in Milton, Wisconsin. When he completed high school (years before WIOA), he was able to immediately begin working at a CRP and at the same time pursue Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) through the Wisconsin Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). The CRP worked with the DVR to allow him to perform trial jobs and even some part-time CIE, filling the remainder of his work week at the CRP. H.R. 8736 will restore the procedures that worked so well for my son.

Christopher has participated in Special Olympics for many years. He has friends there who want to work at his CRP but can't because "they are not old enough." This makes him sad. I hope you will lend your full support to H.R. 8736. It will mean so much to many with I/DD.

Respectfully,



Rick Wilson
Janesville, WI