

May 11, 2026

To the Honorable Chairman Tim Walberg and Members of the Education and Workforce Committee,

My name is Linda Diedrich, and I serve as the marketing director for KANDU Industries, a Wisconsin nonprofit organization that provides employment opportunities, life enrichment, and support services for individuals with disabilities and disadvantages.

I am writing in support of the Restoration of Employment Choice for Adults with Disabilities Act because I believe individuals with disabilities deserve access to employment pathways that reflect their unique abilities, goals, and support needs.

Through my work at KANDU, I have seen firsthand that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to employment. While some individuals thrive in fully independent community employment, others benefit from supportive work environments that provide additional structure, supervision, skill-building, and encouragement. These opportunities help individuals develop confidence, experience the dignity of work, build relationships, and participate meaningfully in their communities.

Current workforce restrictions have unintentionally limited access to some of these supportive employment options for young adults with disabilities between the ages of 18–25. For many individuals and families, preserving employment choice is critically important because meaningful success looks different for every person.

I respectfully ask you to support this legislation and help ensure individuals with disabilities and their families continue to have access to employment opportunities that best support long-term success, independence, and quality of life.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint and for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Linda Diedrich
Marketing Director