

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

12/7/11

CONTACTS: Barbara Riley

(Crenshaw) 202-225-2501

April Mellody

(Casey) 202-224-6324

**“ABLE ACT” GAINS SUPPORT FROM 49 NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL
ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS**

**Groups call on Congress to pass legislation to create
tax-free savings accounts for individuals with disabilities**

WASHINGTON, DC – The “Achieving a Better Life Experience Act” (ABLE Act) gained support from 49 advocacy organizations, underscoring the need for legislation to create tax-free savings accounts for persons with disabilities, announced Congressman Ander Crenshaw (R-FL) and Senator Robert Casey (D-PA).

“We urge the Congress to take action on this important landmark legislation aimed at enhancing the economic security of Americans with disabilities,” wrote the groups in a letter to House and Senate Committee Chairmen. “The time is now to act on this important legislation and demonstrate that Congress is committed to supporting citizens with disabilities to generate savings and build for their economic future. We appreciate your leadership and hope you will do everything in your power to support the enhancement of citizens with disabilities through passage of the ABLE Act in the 112th Congress.”

In a December 5 letter, 33 national organizations and 16 state and local organizations called on Senator Max Baucus, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, Senator Orrin Hatch, Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, Congressman Dave Camp, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Congressman Sander Levin, Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee to take action and pass the bill .

Crenshaw and Casey unveiled the “ABLE Act” (H.R. 3423, S. 1872) on November 15 at a Capitol Hill press conference. The bill would amend Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986 to allow for tax-free savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. To date, 60 Members of the House and 6 Members of the United States Senate have cosponsored the legislation.

-more-

National Organizations: ACCESS, APSE, American Association of People with Disabilities, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Autistic Self-Advocacy Network, Autism Speaks, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, Easter Seals, Epilepsy Foundation, Lutheran Services in America Disability Network, Muscular Dystrophy Association, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, National Association of Councils of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, National Disability Institute, National Down Syndrome Congress, National Down Syndrome Society, National Federation of the Blind, National Fragile X Foundation, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities, National Respite Coalition, NISH, Physician Parent Caregivers, Shepherd Center, TASH, The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation, The Disability Opportunity Fund, the Jewish Federations of North America, The National Center for Learning Disabilities, The Council on Independent Living, United Cerebral Palsy, United Spinal Association, World Institute on Disability.

State/Local Organizations: ADAPT Montana, Cambridge, Inc. Arden, NC, Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State, Cerebral Palsy of Colorado, Community Homes, Inc. Milwaukee, WI, Community Living Services (MI), Community Management Initiative, Inc. Asheville, NC, Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia, Georgia Advocacy Office, Illinois Parents of Adults with Developmental Disabilities (IPAADUnite), Inclusive Innovations, Plymouth, MN, Innovative Services, Inc., Green Bay, WI, Jay Nolan Community Services (CA), Parent to Parent of Colorado, SimplyHome, LLC Asheville, NC, United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago.

###