

July 31, 2015

David Mank, Chair
Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for
Individuals with Disabilities

Dear Dr. Mank and other Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), in strong support of the interim recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

AUCD is an organization that supports and promotes a national network of 125 university-community interdisciplinary centers in every state and territory. AUCD advances policies and practices that improve the health, education, social, and economic well-being of all people with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and their communities by supporting our member organizations in research, education, health, and service activities.

People with disabilities represent a vital and integral part of our society. However, people with disabilities continue to be among the most unemployed, underemployed, and impoverished group in our country. The WIOA takes important steps to empower individuals with disabilities to maximize employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence, inclusion, and integration into society. This committee goes further by making important recommendations to overcome multiple and complex barriers across federal agencies and systems to increase employment opportunities and reduce the use and need for non-integrated and subminimum wage jobs.

We find the recommendations put forth in the interim report by the Advisory Committee to be comprehensive and thoughtful. If implemented, these recommendations will certainly lead to increased competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Again, AUCD supports the interim report of the Advisory Committee and we look forward to helping to implement the final recommendations of the Committee. Thank you for all your work and time put into improving work opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Andrew Imparato
Executive Director, AUCD

1100 Wayne Avenue
Suite 1000
Silver Spring, MD 20910
t: 301-588-8252
f: 301-588-2842
www.aucd.org

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