



October 2, 2023

The Honorable Bob Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20310

The Honorable Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20310

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Casey and Wyden and Representative Dingell:

The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) empowers individuals with Down syndrome and their families by driving policy change, providing resources, engaging with local communities, and shifting public perceptions. We write today in strong support of the passage of the ABLE MATCH (Making ABLE a Tool to Combat Hardship) Act, which would help lower-income individuals participate in the ABLE program through a federal dollar-for-dollar match. The match system is intended for individuals who earn \$28,000 or less annually and will taper off for each dollar a person earns over \$28,000. This match system will support individuals with disabilities with lower incomes in saving money for their disability expenses and health needs.

According to the 2020 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium, 25.9 percent of individuals with disabilities ages 18-64 were living poverty, compared to 11.4 percent of individuals without disabilities.¹ The asset limits for federal assistance have contributed to this poverty rate, prohibiting beneficiaries from having more than \$2,000 in assets without losing their critical SSI benefits. The ABLE MATCH Act would give lower-income individuals with disabilities the opportunity to create an ABLE account that can be used to save up to \$100,000 without risking their eligibility in other government supports, therefore promoting better financial health and stability.

NDSS strives to ensure all individuals with Down syndrome are assured their human rights and valued by a more inclusive society. We urge Congress to take action to promote the opportunity for lower-income individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities to participate in the ABLE program, and we thank you for your leadership regarding this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kandi Pickard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

Kandi Pickard
President and CEO
National Down Syndrome Society

¹ "Annual Disability Statistic Compendium." *Disability Statistics & Demographics*, 2020. https://disabilitycompendium.org/sites/default/files/user-uploads/Events/2021_release_year/Final%20Accessibility%20Compendium%202020%20PDF_2.1.2020reduced.pdf