Pass the ABLE Act in Georgia!

Savings accounts for people with disabilities to support Education, Employment and Independence!

ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Accounts are savings accounts for people with disabilities to help them live independently.

These accounts allow savings to pay for critical and expensive qualified disability expenses:

- Education
- Employment training and support
- Housing
- Health and wellness
- Transportation
- Personal support services
- Financial management and administrative services
- Legal fees
- Funeral and burial expenses

Congress passed the ABLE legislation in 2014 with broad bipartisan support.

34 states passed legislation in 2015 creating ABLE accounts.

Georgia should act to enable families to save for members with serious disabilities.

Your Support is Needed Now!

Contact your Georgia Senator and Representative today and urge them to support HB 768 Georgia ABLE Act!

SUPPORT HB 768 GEORGIA ABLE ACT

Congress passed the ABLE Act in 2014 with broad bipartisan Support. 34 states have passed legislation creating state programs so people can open ABLE accounts.

Medicaid and SSI set eligibility asset limits for an individual with a disability at \$2,000. This limits opportunities for independence.

ABLE accounts allow for savings above the \$2,000 limit for disability related expenses such as housing, employment support, education, and personal support.

An ABLE account can be compared to Georgia's longstanding 529 accounts that allow families to save for college expenses. Accounts may not exceed the Georgia 529 limit of \$235,000. An individual is limited to a single ABLE account.

Individuals with a serious disability occurring prior to age 26 may open an ABLE account. Total annual contributions are capped at the annual federal gift tax limit of \$14.000. Account contributions are not tax deductible for federal tax purposes. HB 768 proposes a state tax deduction on contributions of up to \$2,000 per year. SSI is suspended for beneficiaries with accounts exceeding \$100,000, but Medicaid eligibility remains intact. Income earned by the accounts and withdrawals for qualified expenses would not be taxable. Withdrawals for nonqualified expenses are taxed plus a 10 % penalty. Upon the beneficiary's death, remaining account assets reimburse **Medicaid for payments** made from the date the

account was created.

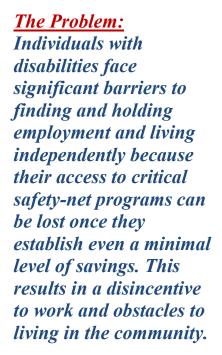
Georgia ABLE Act: HB 768

The Georgia Able Coalition is a large and growing coalition led by All About Developmental Disabilities (AADD), the Georgia Council for Developmental Disabilities (GCDD), and Autism Speaks Georgia, and includes:

- All About Developmental Disabilities
- Access to a Better Tomorrow
- The ARC of Albany
- The ARC of Georgia
- Autism Speaks
- Autism Speaks GA
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- Center for Leadership in Disability, GSU
- Center for the Visually Impaired
- Diversified Enterprises
- Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta
- Easter Seals of Southern Georgia
- Employment First Georgia
- Georgia Association of People Supporting Employment First
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia Community Trust
- Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Georgia Microboard Association
- Jewish Family & Career Services
- Learning Community
- Parent to Parent of Georgia
- Service Providers Association for Developmental Disabilities (SPADD)
- Shepherd Center
- Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia
- Unlock (formerly Unlock the Waiting List)
- United Cerebral Palsy
- Voices for Georgia's Children
- Work Works

For More Information Contact:

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The Solution:

The ABLE Act would help more individuals with disabilities to work, save, and live as independently as possible without losing access to Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income and other means-tested benefits.

