



ABLE Act of 2013

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- The ABLÉ Act of 2013 (H.R. 647/S.313) would amend section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code to encourage savings for the needs of an individual with a disability, whether or not those needs include savings for higher education. Current 529 plans can fall short for the many individuals with autism or other severe disabilities who cannot or choose not to pursue post-secondary education.
- **ABLE accounts would help people with disabilities enjoy greater financial security** by supplementing benefits provided through private insurance, employment, the supplemental security income (SSI) program, the Medicaid program, or other sources.



- **ABLE accounts could be used for a variety of purposes, including the following:**
 - **Education**, including tuition for preschool through post-secondary study, tutors, and special education services;
 - **Housing**, including expenses for acquiring, modifying, and maintaining a primary residence;
 - **Transportation**, including expenses for using mass transit, purchasing and modifying vehicles, and moving;
 - **Employment support**, including expenses for obtaining and maintaining a job, such as job-related training, assistive technology, and personal assistance supports
 - **Health and wellness**, including premiums for health insurance, mental health, medical, vision, and dental expenses, habilitation and rehabilitation services, durable medical equipment, therapy, respite care, long term services and supports, nutritional management, communication services and devices, adaptive equipment, assistive technology, and personal assistance; and
 - **Miscellaneous expenses** such as funeral and burial expenses.



- ABLE Accounts are not intended to replace special needs trusts (individual or pooled) as an option for financial planning.
- ABLE accounts would be available for individuals who receive SSI or disability benefits. They would also be available under stringent conditions for individuals who are not receiving these benefits but who have a medically determined physical or mental impairment that results in marked and severe functional limitations.
- A key feature of ABLE accounts is their treatment under means-tested federal programs such as SSI and Medicaid. If the assets in an ABLE account reached \$100,000, any monthly SSI benefits would be suspended but not terminated. Suspension of SSI benefits would have no impact on an individual's Medicaid eligibility.



- The ABLE Act is supported by a bipartisan, bicameral group of champions, including Senator Robert Casey, Jr. (D-PA) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC); and Representative Andre Crenshaw (R-FL), Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), and Representative Pete Sessions (R-TX). **Seventy senators and 354 representatives are cosponsoring ABLE.**

