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## **National Down Syndrome Congress Applauds the Introduction of the Stop the Wait Act**

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Roswell, GA – The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) applauds the introduction of the Stop the Wait Act by Congressman Llyod Doggett with Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick and Senator Bob Casey and urges swift passage by Congress. The bill includes key provisions to eliminate the disability insurance benefits waiting period for individuals with disabilities.

“We thank Congressman Lloyd Doggett and his staff’s diligent work on the introduction of the Stop the Wait Act. This legislation is vital to many families and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in order to avoid a lapse in coverage due to the current outdated policies surrounding the waiting period for disability insurance benefits,” said Jordan Kough, executive director of the National Down Syndrome Congress. “We encourage other members of Congress to join this essential piece of legislation, and we look forward to seeing it cross the finish line.”

The Stop the Wait Act directs the Social Security Administration (SSA) to phase out the 5-month waiting period to receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and allow anyone who is uninsured or unable to afford insurance during the Medicare waiting period to receive Medicare coverage. In December 2020, the House of Representatives joined the U.S. Senate in approving the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act so that individuals with ALS will no longer be subject to this onerous restriction. The Stop the Wait Act would be a key reform in eliminating this onerous restriction for all individuals with disabilities including those with Down syndrome.

**Educate. Advocate. Empower. Inspire.**

We urge Congress to not delay and get this legislation over the finish line quickly so that people with Down syndrome and other disabilities will no longer be burdened by current waiting periods. Congress should build off its previous effort to eliminate waiting periods and pass this bill so that all people with disabilities can receive disability benefits and healthcare in a timely fashion.

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*The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) is the country's oldest national organization for people with Down syndrome, their families, and the professionals who work with them. We provide information, advocacy and support concerning all aspects of life for individuals with Down syndrome, and work to create a national climate in which all people will recognize and embrace the value and dignity of people with Down syndrome.*