



**NATIONAL CENTER**

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November 16, 2021

U.S. Senator Robert Casey  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senator Steve Daines  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Casey & Daines:

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. NDSC provides information, advocacy and support concerning all aspects of life for individuals with Down syndrome, and we work hard to achieve our vision of a world with equal rights and opportunities for people with Down syndrome. NDSC believes that employment should be an expected life activity for individuals with Down syndrome, and that individuals with Down syndrome should have the individual and systemic supports necessary to enable them to find, keep and succeed in careers in the community based on their preferences, interests, and strengths. With that goal in mind, we are writing to express our support for the bipartisan Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (TCIEA).

The TCIEA is designed to address barriers to employment and expand opportunities for competitive integrated employment (CIE) for people with disabilities while phasing out subminimum wage certificates under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act over a five-year period. The TCIEA provides States, service providers, subminimum wage certificate holders, and other agencies, with grants and other resources they need to create CIE service delivery models. Furthermore, we appreciate that the TCIEA also includes technical assistance and funding to provide wraparound services that some individuals with the most significant disabilities will need when subminimum wages are phased out.

NDSC strongly supports this bill that will end the discriminatory and unfair payment of subminimum wages to people with disabilities while increasing opportunities for CIE. We look forward to working with you towards passage of the TCIEA, and we applaud your bipartisan leadership and commitment to this important legislation. If you have any questions, or to follow up, please reach out.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Ramirez".

Stacey Ramirez  
Interim Executive Director  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
[stacey@ndscenter.org](mailto:stacey@ndscenter.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Sachs".

Heather Sachs  
Policy & Advocacy Director  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
[heather@ndscenter.org](mailto:heather@ndscenter.org)