



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 11, 2023

The Honorable Catherine Szpindor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Office of Chief Administrative Officer  
200 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

The Honorable Chere Rexroat  
Architect of the Capitol  
Office of the Architect of the Capitol  
2nd St SW, D St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

The Honorable J. Thomas Manger  
Chief of Police  
United States Capitol Police  
119 D Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hugh Nathaniel Halpern  
Director  
Government Publishing Office  
732 North Capitol St NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

The Honorable Patrick Findlay  
Executive Director  
Office of Congressional Workplace Rights  
110 2nd Street, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003

The Honorable Gene Dodaro  
Comptroller General  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20226

The Honorable Phillip L. Swagel  
Director  
Congressional Budget Office  
110 2nd Street, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003

The Honorable Brian Pugh  
Executive Director  
Stennis Center for Public Service  
201 Massachusetts Ave NW, Ste C-7  
Washington, D.C. 20002

The Honorable Melissa Blaschke  
Executive Director  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20540

CC:

The Honorable Bryan Steil  
Chairman  
House Committee on Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Morelle  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

To whom it may concern:

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, we celebrated International Persons with Disabilities Day. In doing so, we recognize the roughly 42 million Americans with disabilities and their inspiring efforts to lead rich and fulfilling lives. We further celebrate the work that Americans with disabilities have done to organize for equal rights and necessary accommodations to ensure equal access to all opportunities—including employment.

Prior to the landmark passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Americans with disabilities demonstrated to Congress that if given the opportunity to work, they could provide goods and services as proficiently as—if not better than—anyone else in the market. In 1938, Congress listened, and passed the Wagner-O’Day Act (later amended as Javits-Wagner-O’Day), requiring federal government procurement to use top-quality products made by the disability community whenever possible. As a direct result of this Act, nearly 40,000 Americans with disabilities per year are able to work, earning an average wage of over \$15 an hour, providing many essential products and services the federal government relies on.

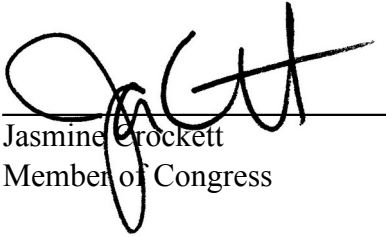
Yet there is still more work to be done. Over time, the Legislative Branch procurement of AbilityOne products and services has fallen behind that of the Executive Branch in terms of promotion, transparency, and coordination. That is why we are calling on the procurement offices of the Legislative Branch entities, already required to engage with the AbilityOne program, to take deliberate action not just to achieve parity with the Executive, but to surpass them.

For Ms. Szpindor and Ms. Rexroat, in terms of promotion, while we commend the work of the Office of Chief Administrative Officer and the Office of the Architect of the Capitol highlighting AbilityOne products during National Disability Month, we seek to know how your offices plan to commit to more actively promoting opportunities for Congressional Member offices to purchase AbilityOne products and services throughout the year. We believe there are easy mechanisms in place, such as the House Supply Store and Supply Store website, that can be utilized to achieve this goal. Beyond making it simpler for federal employees seeking AbilityOne products and services in the workplace, **we ask whether you will commit to working with incoming Member offices to ensure they are aware of the AbilityOne program? Additionally, will your offices commit to exploring how to leverage the power of defaults to increase purchases of AbilityOne products and services?**

Regarding transparency, **we ask that you provide information as to whether each of your respective offices collect internal data on procurement from AbilityOne, and whether you are committed to publishing that data so that Congress is able to monitor compliance with the statute?** Additionally, we are interested in ensuring there is transparency for the AbilityOne vendors and distributors. Specifically, **when your office begins the process of procuring a product or service, do your offices work with the AbilityOne Commission to ensure they are aware of what your needs are so as to allow their vendors and distributors to reach out if they already have the product or service, or explore getting into that space to fill that need? If not, are you committed to enhancing your procurement transparency?**

Finally, **will your office commit to designating an AbilityOne Representative (ABOR) within your office, charged with advocating for your office's increased use of the program, serving as a liaison with the Commission, and generally fulfilling the role as nearly as is applicable described by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Memorandum, "Increasing the Participation of Americans with Disabilities in Federal Contracting"?** We believe that having such a position is essential and hope to see positive action on this from every office in the very near future.

Sincerely,



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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Marcus J. Molinaro  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress