



# Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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*P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707*

## **Disability Groups Support Budget Change that Creates New Savings Accounts for People with Disabilities**

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The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations applauds the Joint Finance Committee's approval of the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, authored by Representative John Macco, which will establish tax-deferred savings accounts for people with disabilities. The ABLE Act was approved as part of the tax package passed by the Committee today.

"With the implementation of the ABLE Act, Wisconsin is opening the door for people with disabilities to achieve a very basic right: the ability to save for their future," said Survival Co-Chair Beth Swedeen. "In the past, many people with disabilities could only accumulate \$2,000 in assets before losing access to needed long-term services and supports."

ABLE accounts will function similar to the state's EdVest program and allow individuals with disabilities and their families to contribute their own money to tax-deferred accounts, which can then be withdrawn tax-free to pay for qualified expenses such as educational opportunities, transportation, employment supports, housing and health care. ABLE accounts will foster financial independence for people with disabilities and empower them to privately pay for qualified services without the fear of losing access to needed programs.

"ABLE gives people with disabilities the opportunity to set money aside and plan for their future, just like any other Wisconsinite," said Survival Co-Chair Maureen Ryan.

The implementation of the ABLE Act is especially important as Wisconsin continues to promote policies that promote meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

"With the passage of the ABLE Act in Wisconsin, people with disabilities will be given the right to work in the community and save for their future," said Survival Co-Chair Kristin Kerschensteiner. "We look forward to working with the Legislature to continue advancing policies that promote independence for people with disabilities."

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