



December 12, 2017

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Education & Workforce Committee
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Statement in Support of Improve Access to Higher Education Amendment to H.R. 4058

Dear Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), I am writing in support of the Improve Access to Higher Education Amendment to the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity Act (PROSPER Act) (H.R. 4058). NACDD advocates for greater inclusion and access for students with disabilities in higher education, including career and technical programs, and believes all students deserve equal access to higher education free from discrimination. NACDD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves as the national voice of the 56 state and territorial Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils).¹

For students with disabilities, their families, and educators, the Improving Access to Higher Education Amendment soars where the PROSPER Act stumbles. This amendment includes language from H.R. 3199, a bill widely supported by the disability community because of its targeted approach to closing the gap in post-secondary education completion rates for students with disabilities. The amendment would help students with disabilities succeed in higher education by incentivizing institutions of higher education to provide comprehensive services to students with disabilities, improved professional development and technical assistance to faculty and staff, and greater support for the National Teacher Assistance Center and National Coordinating Center for Inclusion of Students with Intellectual Disabilities.

Higher education increases opportunities for students with disabilities to attain meaningful pathways to economic stability which benefits society as a whole. NACDD and the DD Councils are ready to work with you and members of the committee as you fulfill your role in ensuring access, equity and opportunity for all students, including students with disabilities in higher education. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at (202)506-5813 or eprangley@nacdd.org.

Sincerely,

Erin Prangley
Director, Public Policy
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

¹ See Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. Pub. L. 106-402. 114 Stat. 1677. 30 October 2000. Congress.gov. Web 30 October 2017.