

August 26, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
United States Senate
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United State Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairman Isakson, Ranking Member Leahy and Ranking Member Tester,

The over 300 undersigned organizations request your immediate action to prevent the loss of employment opportunities for veterans and other people who are blind or have significant disabilities. The AbilityOne® Program (Program) provides a critical source of employment to more than 40,000 people with significant disabilities, including more than 3,000 veterans with disabilities. Across the nation, AbilityOne nonprofit agencies hold contracts with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for services and products on the AbilityOne Procurement List. These VA contracts employ more than 2,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities, including many veterans. We are deeply concerned this critical source of employment is at risk and this dangerous precedent will expand to create future job loss at the state level. We respectfully seek your support in resolving this issue.

The Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (VBA) and a provision known as the "Rule of Two" allows VA contracting officers to restrict competition to veteran-owned small businesses if at least two such businesses will submit offers and the award can be made at a fair and reasonable price. However, due to a recent Federal court decision and subsequent VA regulatory guidance, existing AbilityOne contracts with the VA are in question and thousands of jobs are at risk. Elimination of AbilityOne contracts will result in job loss, and in some cases, the complete closure of organizations that provide critical services in their local communities. Providing meaningful employment opportunities through the AbilityOne Program for people who are blind or have significant disabilities, many of whom are veterans, is crucial to increasing their personal and economic independence. Any job loss will have an exponential impact on the family and community members of these individuals.

We believe the VBA and the AbilityOne Program are both important to creating opportunities for underserved populations and can co-exist while meeting their respective missions. We urge you to include and support the following language in the Fiscal Year 2020 Military Construction-VA Appropriations bill to ensure the maximum number of AbilityOne jobs are maintained while also supporting contracting opportunities for veteran business owners:

"For any contract issued to a veteran-owned small business concern under 38 USC 8127(i) that includes the fulfillment of any product or service requirement listed on the AbilityOne Commission Procurement List, any portion of a Procurement-Listed requirement not performed by the veteran-owned small business concern shall be subcontracted to the designated AbilityOne provider of such a product or service."

With millions of people with disabilities outside the workforce, including veterans, it is critical to maximize – not minimize – job opportunities offered through the AbilityOne Program. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your steadfast support of critical employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ACCSES
Easterseals
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
SourceAmerica
The Arc of the United States
The Network of Jewish Human Services Agencies
United Cerebral Palsy Network

ALABAMA

Alabama Goodwill Industries, Inc.
Bobby Dodd Institute
Global Connections to Employment, Inc.
Goodwill Easterseals of the Gulf Coast*
Goodwill Industries of Central Alabama
Goodwill Industries of the Southern River, Inc.
Opportunity Center-Easter Seals
Opportunity Center, Inc.
Phoenix/Huntsville Rehabilitation Foundation*
PRIDE Industries
ServiceSource, Inc.
United Ability
Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, Inc.*

ALASKA

Assets, Inc.
CW Resources, Inc.
Global Connections to Employment, Inc.
MQC Enterprises, Inc.
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.

ARIZONA

ACHIEVE Human Services, Inc.
Beacon Group
Employment Source Inc.
(ServiceSource, North Carolina)
Enterprise Professional Services, Inc.
Job Options, Inc.
Peckham, Inc.
Premier Alliances, Inc.
The Centers For Habilitation (TCH)*
VersAbility Resources, Inc.

ARKANSAS

Abilities Unlimited
Abilities Unlimited of Fort Smith
MARVA Workshop, Inc.
Pathfinder, Inc.

PRIDE Industries
Skookum Educational Programs

CALIFORNIA

Asian Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
Bakersfield ARC, Inc.
CW Resources, Inc.
Desert Haven Enterprises, Incorporated
Easter Seals Superior California
Exceptional Children's Foundation
Global Connections to Employment, Inc.
Goodwill Industries of Southern California
Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay and Calidad Industries, Inc.
HHI Services, Inc.
Hope Services
Imperial County Work Training Center, Inc.
Job Options, Inc.*
Landmark Services, Inc.
Life Options, Vocational and Resource Center
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
North Bay Industries
North Valley Services
OPARC
Pacific Coast Community Services
PRIDE Industries*
Project HIRED
Siskiyou Opportunity Center
The Arc of Imperial Valley
The Arc of San Diego
The Centers For Habilitation (TCH)
The Roland Center
Toolworks
United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay, Inc.
VersAbility Resources, Inc.
VTC Enterprises

COLORADO

AspenPointe
Discover Goodwill of Southern and Western Colorado
Global Connections to Employment, Inc.
Jewish Family Service of Colorado
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
North Metro Community Services
Phoenix/Huntsville Rehabilitation Foundation

Professional Contract Services, Inc.
Pueblo Diversified Industries, Inc.
ServiceSource, Inc.

CONNECTICUT

CW Resources, Inc.*
Global Connections to Employment, Inc.
Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven
State Use Programs Association
The Kennedy Center*
VersAbility Resources, Inc.
Work, Inc.

DELAWARE

Ability Network of Delaware
Chimes DC
Chimes International
Fedcap
Homes For Life Foundation
Human Technologies Center
Kent Sussex Industries
Opportunity Center, Inc.*
ServiceSource, Inc.
State Use Programs Association

FLORIDA

AWRC
Bobby Dodd Institute
Brevard Achievement Center*
CARC-Advocates for Citizens with Disabilities, Inc.
Challenge Enterprises of North Florida
CW Resources, Inc.
Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman JFS of Boward County, Inc.
Employment Source Inc.
(ServiceSource, North Carolina)
Fedcap
Florida ARF
Global Connections to Employment, Inc.*
Goodwill Easterseals of the Gulf Coast
Goodwill Industries of North Florida
Goodwill Industries of South Florida, Inc.
Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Job Options, Inc.
PRIDE Industries
ServiceSource, Inc.
SMA Healthcare
State Use Programs Association

FLORIDA (cont.)

Training, Rehabilitation, and
Development Institute, Inc. (TRDI)
VersAbility Resources, Inc.
Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

GEORGIA

Austin Task, Inc.
Bobby Dodd Institute*
Easterseals East Georgia
Fedcap
Good Vocations, Inc.
Goodwill Industries of North Georgia
Goodwill Industries of the Coastal
Empire, Inc.
Goodwill Industries of the Southern
River, Inc.*
Goodwill of Middle Georgia and
the CSRA*
GWI Services, Inc.
Job Options, Inc.
Middle Georgia Diversified, Inc.
New Ventures Enterprises, Inc.
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.*
PRIDE Industries
Professional Contract Services, Inc.
State Use Programs Association
Training, Rehabilitation, and
Development Institute, Inc. (TRDI)
VersAbility Resources, Inc.
Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

HAWAII

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii
HHI Services, Inc.
Lanakila Pacific
Network Enterprises, Inc.
PRIDE Industries
VersAbility Resources, Inc.

IDAHO

Dawn Enterprises, Inc.
Development Workshop Inc.*
New Day Products, Inc.
Skookum Educational Programs
VersAbility Resources, Inc.

ILLINOIS

Ada S. McKinley Community
Services, Inc.*
Challenge Unlimited, Inc.*
Clearbrook
CW Resources, Inc.
Fedcap

Goodwill Industries of Southeastern
Wisconsin, Inc.
Human Resources Center of Edgar and
Clark Counties*
Opportunity Secure Data Destruction
(Glenkirk)
Rolling Hills Progress Center
TRI Industries NFP

INDIANA

Ada S. McKinley Community
Services, Inc.
AWRC*
Goodwill of Central and
Southern Indiana
GW Commercial Services, Inc.
Human Resources Center of Edgar and
Clark Counties
KCARC
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries
Professional Contract Services, Inc.
Rauch, Inc.
Shares, Inc.
State Use Programs Association
Stone Belt Arc, Incorporated
Sunfish Consulting and Chair of the
Ability Indiana Committee*
Tradewinds Services, Inc.

IOWA

Genesis Development
Goodwill Solutions, Inc.
Heartland Goodwill Enterprises

KANSAS

Center Industries Corporation
Cottonwood, Inc.
Goodwill of Western Missouri and
Eastern Kansas
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
Skookum Educational Programs
Training, Rehabilitation, and
Development Institute, Inc. (TRDI)

KENTUCKY

Employment Source Inc.
(ServiceSource, North Carolina)
Global Connections to
Employment, Inc.
Goodwill Industries of Kentucky
InspiriTec, Inc.
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries
Opportunity Center Workshop

Opportunity Workshop of
Lexington, Inc.
Pennyroyal Regional MH-MR Board,
Inc. (Trace Industries)
Pioneer Vocational / Industrial
Services, Inc.
PRIDE Industries
Professional Contract Services, Inc.
SEKRI, Inc.*
ServiceSource, Inc.
Training, Rehabilitation, and
Development Institute, Inc. (TRDI)
Zoom Group, Inc.

LOUISIANA

ARC of Sabine
Enterprise Professional Services, Inc.
Fedcap
Global Connections to
Employment, Inc.
Goodwill Industries of North
Louisiana, Inc.
Goodwill Industries of Southeastern
Louisiana, Inc.
HHI Services, Inc.
PRIDE Industries
State Use Programs Association
The Arc Caddo-Boosier
UpLIFTD
VersAbility Resources, Inc.

MAINE

Fedcap
Goodwill Northern New England*

MARYLAND

Chesapeake Bay Industries, Inc.
Chimes DC
Chimes International
Community Work Services (CWS)
Didlake, Inc.
Fedcap
Goodwill Industries of the
Chesapeake, Inc.
Hagerstown Goodwill Industries, Inc.
(Horizon Goodwill Industries, Inc.)*
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
MVLE, Inc.
NW Works, Inc.
Opportunity Center, Inc.
Portco, Inc.
PRIDE Industries
ServiceSource, Inc.
Skookum Educational Programs

MARYLAND (cont.)

State Use Programs Association
The Arc Baltimore
The Center for Life Enrichment, Inc.

MASSACHUSETTS

Community Work Services (CWS)*
CW Resources, Inc.
Fedcap
Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
Sunshine Village
The Kennedy Center
Work, Inc.*

MICHIGAN

Calhoun County Community Mental
Health (Summit Pointe)
Challenge Unlimited, Inc.
Community Enterprises of
St. Clair County
Grand Traverse Industries
Hope Network
JVS Human Services - Detroit
Lakestate Industries
Navigations Incorporated
New Horizon Rehabilitation
Services, Inc.
Northeastern Michigan Rehabilitation
and Opportunity Center
Northern Transitions, Inc.
Peckham, Inc.*
Professional Contract Services, Inc.
SVRC Industries, Inc.
VersAbility Resources, Inc.
Work Skills Corporation

MINNESOTA

AcessAbility, Inc.
Global Connections to
Employment, Inc.
MDI Government Services
Occupational Development Center, Inc.
Tasks Unlimited, Inc.

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Goodworks, Inc.
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
Warren County ARC, Inc.

MISSOURI

AWRC
Blue Valley Industries
CW Resources, Inc.

Goodwill of Western Missouri and
Eastern Kansas*
Job One
Portco, Inc.
ServiceSource, Inc.

MONTANA

Opportunity Resources, Inc.
Skills'kin
Skookum Educational Programs

NEBRASKA

BH Services, Inc.
Goodwill Specialty Services, Inc.
VersAbility Resources, Inc.

NEVADA

Great Plains Enterprises, Inc.
Opportunity Village
PRIDE Industries
VersAbility Resources, Inc.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Community Work Services (CWS)
CW Resources, Inc.
Fedcap
Goodwill Northern New England

NEW JERSEY

Chimes DC
Chimes International
Community Work Services (CWS)
Employment Horizons, Inc.
Fedcap
InspiriTec, Inc.
Network of Jewish Human Service
Agencies (NJHSA)
Occupational Training Center of
Burlington County*
Opportunity Center, Inc.
PRIDE Industries
State Use Programs Association
The Arc of Bergen and Passiac Counties
The Arc of Camden County
The Resource Center

NEW MEXICO

Adelante Development Center, Inc.
CW Resources, Inc.
LifeROOTS, Inc.
Phoenix/Huntsville Rehabilitation
Foundation
Skookum Educational Programs
State Use Programs Association

Training, Rehabilitation, and
Development Institute, Inc. (TRDI)
Tresco, Inc.

NEW YORK

AHRC New York City
Arc Herkimer
Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence
Arc of Cattaraugus Niagara
Counties Chapter
Arc of Chemung
Arc of Genesee Orleans
Arc of Schuyler
Clinton County Chapter NYSARC, Inc.
(Advocacy & Resource Center)
Community Work Services (CWS)
Fedcap*
Gateway Community Industries
Human Technologies Center*
NYSARC, Inc., Seneca-Cayuga
Counties Chapter
Onondaga County Chapter NYSARC, Inc.
Peckham, Inc.
Schenectady Arc
State Use Programs Association
Suburban Adult Services, Inc. (sasi)
Supports for Living Inc.
The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence
The Arc New York
The Corporate Source, Inc.*
The Workshop, Incorporated
Warren, Washington and Albany
Counties Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.
Work, Inc.

NORTH CAROLINA

Brevard Achievement Center
Chimes DC
Chimes International
Coastal Enterprises of Jacksonville, Inc.
Durham Exchange Club Industries
Eastern Carolina Vocational
Center, Inc. (ECVC)
Fedcap
Employment Source Inc.
(ServiceSource, North Carolina)*
Haywood Vocational
Opportunities, Inc.
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
OE Enterprises, Inc.*
Portco, Inc.
ServiceSource, Inc.
Skills, Inc.
VersAbility Resources, Inc.

NORTH DAKOTA

Alpha Opportunities, Inc.
CW Resources, Inc.
MVW Services, Inc.
VersAbility Resources, Inc.

OHIO

A Team Ohio
AWRC
Challenge Unlimited, Inc.
Coleman Professional Services
Greene, Inc.
Licking/Know Goodwill, Inc.
Murray Ridge Production Center, Inc.
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries*
Portco, Inc.
TAC Industries, Inc.
The Alpha Group of Delaware, Inc.
VGS, Inc.
Weaver Industries, Inc.

OKLAHOMA

Dale Rogers Training Center
Professional Contract Services, Inc.
State Use Programs Association
Work Services Corporation

OREGON

Easterseals Oregon
Garten
Opportunity Connections*
ORA QRF/State Use Committee
Relay Resources*
State Use Programs Association*
Sunrise Enterprises, Inc.

PENNSYLVANIA

Beaver County Association for the Blind
Butler County Association for the Blind, Inc.
Cambria County Association for the Blind and Handicapped
Chimes DC
Chimes International
Dr. Gertrude A Barber Center, Inc.
(Barber National Institute)
Elwyn
Fedcap
Goodwill Keystone Area
Goodwill Services, Inc.
Hagerstown Goodwill Industries, Inc.
(Horizon Goodwill Industries, Inc.)
Human Technologies Center

InspiriTec, Inc.*

Jewish Family and Community Services*
Lark Enterprises, Inc.
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
NuVision Center
Occupational Training Center of Burlington County
Opportunity Center, Inc.
Penn-York Opportunities, Inc.
Portco, Inc.
ServiceSource, Inc.
Skookum Educational Programs
State Use Programs Association
Sunfish Consulting and Chair of the Ability Indiana Committee
The Burnley Workshop of the Poconos, Inc.
Westmoreland County Blind Association

RHODE ISLAND

Community Work Services (CWS)
CW Resources, Inc.
Fedcap
James L. Maher Center

SOUTH CAROLINA

Challenge Unlimited, Inc.
Global Connections to Employment, Inc.
Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands SC
Goodwill of Middle Georgia and the CSRA
OE Enterprises, Inc.
Palmetto Goodwill Services
Tri-Development Center of Aiken County, Inc.
VersAbility Resources, Inc.

SOUTH DAKOTA

BH Services, Inc.*
Huron Area Center for Independence
LifeScape
VersAbility Resources, Inc.

TENNESSEE

Arc Knox County (Sunshine Industries)
Bobby Dodd Institute
Global Connections to Employment, Inc.
Goodwill Industries-Knoxville, Inc.
Memphis Goodwill Industries, Inc.

Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
PRIDE Industries
SEKRI, Inc.
Skookum Educational Programs
Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

TEXAS

Austin Task, Inc.*
Community Work Services (CWS)
CW Resources, Inc.
Enterprise Professional Services, Inc.*
Goodwill Industries of San Antonio Contract Services, Inc.
Goodwill Industries of South Texas Contract Services, Inc.
HHI Services, Inc.*
Nobis Enterprises, Inc.
Nueces Center for Mental Health & Intellectual Disabilities (NCMHID)
On Our Own Services, Inc.
Opportunity Center, Inc.
ORC Industries, Inc.
Phoenix/Huntsville Rehabilitation Foundation
PRIDE Industries
Professional Contract Services, Inc.*
ReadyOne Industries, Inc.
Rising Star Resource Development Corporation
ServiceSource, Inc.
Skookum Educational Programs
State Use Programs Association
Sunfish Consulting and Chair of the Ability Indiana Committee
The Center for Pursuit Training, Rehabilitation, and Development Institute, Inc. (TRDI)*
Travis Association for the Blind
VersAbility Resources, Inc.
Work Services Corporation*
World Technical Services, Inc.

UTAH

CW Resources, Inc.
Job Options, Inc.
PARC
Professional Contract Services, Inc.

VERMONT

Goodwill Northern New England Work, Inc.

VIRGINIA

Brevard Achievement Center

VIRGINIA (cont.)

Chimes DC
 Chimes International
 CW Resources, Inc.
 Didlake, Inc.*
 ECHO
 Eggleston
 Employment Source Inc.
 (ServiceSource, North Carolina)
 Friendship Industries, Inc.
 Global Connections to
 Employment, Inc.
 Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Inc.
 Goodwill Services, Inc.
 Hagerstown Goodwill Industries, Inc.
 (Horizon Goodwill Industries, Inc.)
 Human Technologies Center
 Job Options, Inc.
 Lynchburg Sheltered Industries, Inc.
 Mount Rogers IDC, a division of Mount
 Rogers Community Services
 MVLE, Inc.*
 NW Works, Inc.*
 Phoenix/Huntsville Rehabilitation
 Foundation
 Portco, Inc.*
 PRIDE Industries
 Professional Contract Services, Inc.
 Rappahannock Goodwill
 Industries, Inc.
 Sara's Mentoring Center, Inc.
 ServiceSource, Inc.*
 SOAR 365
 State Use Programs Association
 VersAbility Resources, Inc.*
 WorkSource Enterprises

WASHINGTON

At Work!
 Cascade Connections
 Chinook Enterprises
 Columbia Industries
 HHI Services, Inc.
 Lillie Rice Center, Inc.
 New Leaf, Inc.
 Northwest Center
 Opportunity Connections
 PRIDE Industries
 Professional Contract Services, Inc.
 Relay Resources
 Skils'kin*
 Skookum Educational Programs*
 VersAbility Resources, Inc.
 Yakima Specialties, Inc.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Chimes DC*
 Chimes International*
 Didlake, Inc.
 Fedcap
 Global Connections to
 Employment, Inc.
 Goodwill of Greater Washington
 MVLE, Inc.
 NW Works, Inc.
 Opportunity Center, Inc.
 ServiceSource, Inc.

WEST VIRGINIA

Gateway Industries Inc.
 Hagerstown Goodwill Industries, Inc.
 (Horizon Goodwill Industries, Inc.)
 Jewish Family and Community Services
 PACE Enterprises of West Virginia, Inc.
 The Sheltered Workshop of Nicholas
 County, Inc.
 SW Resources, Inc.

WISCONSIN

Ada S. McKinley Community
 Services, Inc.
 ASPIRO, Inc.
 Challenge Unlimited, Inc.
 Chippewa River Industries, Inc.
 Creative Community Living
 Services, Inc.
 Goodwill Industries of Southeastern
 Wisconsin, Inc.*
 MARC Inc.
 Northwoods, Inc. of Wisconsin
 Opportunities, Inc.
 ORC Industries, Inc.*
 RCS Empowers, Inc.

WYOMING

Development Workshop Inc.
 Northwest Community Action
 Programs of Wyoming, Inc. (NOWCAP)
 Skils'kin

TERRITORIES:

GUAM

Pacific Ability Resources, Inc. (PARI)
 iCAN Resources, Inc.

PUERTO RICO

Brevard Achievement Center
 Puerto Rico Industries for the
 Blind, Corp.
 The Corporate Source, Inc.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Corporate Source, Inc.