



October 31, 2013

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
135 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Nelson and Senator Grassley:

I am pleased to support the **Special Needs Trust Fairness Act of 2013** (H.R. 2123 in the House) on behalf of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). I commend your bipartisan effort to empower people with disabilities by introducing this legislation. The Special Needs Trust Fairness Act will allow people with disabilities to set up a special needs trust for themselves.

AAPD is the nation's largest disability rights organization. We promote equal opportunity, economic power, independent living and political participation for people with disabilities. Our members, including people with disabilities and our family, friends, and supporters, represent a powerful force for change.

A special needs trust allows assets to be held in a trust and protects against the risk of complete impoverishment. As you know, due to a glitch in the current law, a capable, competent person with a disability is prohibited from creating her or his own special needs trust. We are in the position of having to ask a parent, grandparent, guardian, or the court to do so for us. This legislation not only eradicates this discrimination against people with disabilities, but also promotes self-sufficiency and independence.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. AAPD looks forward to working with you on passage of the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act of 2013. Please feel free to contact Colin Schwartz at cschwartz@aapd.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Henry Claypool
Executive Vice President
American Association of People with Disabilities