



January 27, 2014

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
United States House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
135 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
United States House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
United States Senate
531 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Enzi
United States Senate
379A Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Nelson, Grassley, Rockefeller, and Enzi and Representatives Thompson and Pallone:

Special Olympics Pennsylvania appreciates your bi-partisan leadership in introducing the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act of 2013, H.R. 2123/S.1672, and we support this important legislation that will empower persons with disabilities to create their own special needs trusts without having to ask a parent, grandparent, legal guardian of the individual, or the court to create the trust.

The mission of Special Olympics PA is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports, free of charge, for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

Special Olympics is a global movement that strives to be athlete-led and athlete-centric. We eliminate barriers – allowing our athletes to shine and demonstrate their abilities. Through successful experiences in sports, our athletes gain confidence and build a positive self-image that is evident on and off the playing field. Our athletes hold jobs, drive, go to college, have families, live independently, and vote. The Special Needs Trust Fairness Act is important because it will remove another barrier that currently prevents people with disabilities, including our athletes, from setting up their own trusts.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue for people with disabilities, and we look forward to working with you to support passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Matthew B. Aaron
President and CEO

Special Olympics Pennsylvania

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