



## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

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Dear Federal Colleague:

In an effort to inform the public about issues related to disability and employment, Congress and the U.S. Labor Department Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

This year marks the 23rd anniversary of this initiative, and I am pleased to provide you with the AbilityOne® NDEAM Toolkit. This time of year is an exceptional time to promote the program and we ask that you celebrate and recognize supporters in your organization.

As a priority source of supply for the Federal Government, the AbilityOne Program enables people who are blind or have other significant disabilities to obtain employment through Federal procurements. More than 3,000 quality products and a wide array of services are provided to meet government requirements. As a result, the AbilityOne Program currently employs more than 47,000 individuals at over 600 community-based nonprofit agencies nationwide.

We hope you will use the enclosed toolkit to increase awareness of this important Federal program and share it within your agencies. Throughout the year, other opportunities to increase awareness may include highlighting new AbilityOne contract awards with ribbon-cutting ceremonies, providing VIP tour visits to nonprofit agencies, and recognizing AbilityOne and Federal employees with award presentations. These all offer an opportunity to educate the Federal workforce about the benefits of becoming an AbilityOne Program partner and to develop new business opportunities through this unique Federal procurement program.

As President Barack Obama has said,

“My Administration is committed to promoting positive change for every American, including those who are blind or have other significant disabilities. The Federal Government and its contractors can lead the way by implementing effective employment policies and practices that increase opportunities and help workers achieve their full potential. Across this country, millions of people with disabilities are working or want to work. We must ensure they have access to the support and services they need to succeed.”

We appreciate your efforts to use National Disability Employment Awareness Month as a special opportunity to recognize the AbilityOne Program and the people it employs in support of you, our Federal customers.

Thank you for helping us show that “AbilityOne Works for You!”

Sincerely,

E. Ballard  
Executive Director and CEO