



President Biden Appoints Four Private Citizen Members to U.S. AbilityOne Commission

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 13, 2021 – The White House [announced](#) today that President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., has appointed the following four individuals to the U.S. AbilityOne Commission as private citizen members:

- Bryan Bashin
- Christina Brandt
- Gabriel M. Cazares
- Chai Rachel Feldblum

The new appointments were effective July 30. Coinciding with these appointments, the two previous private citizen Commission members – James M. Kesteloot and Robert T. Kelly, Jr. – concluded their tenure on the Commission.

“The Commission is honored to welcome these four new private citizen members, whose contributions will be essential to continuing the modernization of the AbilityOne Program while increasing employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities,” said Commission Chairperson Jeffrey A. Koses. “We are deeply grateful to Jim Kesteloot and Bob Kelly for their years of leadership on the Commission, including Jim’s tenure as Chairperson and Bob’s as Vice Chairperson.”

The four new private citizen members have [issued](#) a joint statement, as well as individual statements and bios.



About the U.S. AbilityOne Commission

The AbilityOne Program is administered by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, the operating name of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. The Commission is an independent Federal agency composed of 15 Presidential appointees: 11 represent Federal agencies, and four serve as private citizens who are knowledgeable about employment barriers facing people who are blind or have significant disabilities. The Commission designates Central Nonprofit Agencies (CNAs) to facilitate the employment of people who are blind or have significant disabilities. CNA Cooperative Agreements with the Commission include performance work statements, quality assurance surveillance plan deliverables, and agreement clauses. The Commission currently executes the AbilityOne Program based on Cooperative Agreements with two CNAs: National Industries for the Blind and SourceAmerica. Commission-designated CNAs are private entities.

About the AbilityOne Program

The AbilityOne Program is one of the largest sources of employment in the United States for people who are blind or have significant disabilities. More than 42,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities, including more than 3,200 veterans, are employed nationwide at nearly 500 nonprofit agencies from Maine to Guam. AbilityOne provided nearly \$4 billion in products and services to the Federal Government in fiscal year 2020. The Program operates at more than 1,000 locations, representing 40 government agencies, including more than 150 Base Supply Centers at military and government installations.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED
An Independent Federal Agency

