



## OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

June 12, 2020

AbilityOne Program Leaders,

Please ensure wide distribution of this message.

The U.S. AbilityOne Commission shares America's anguish at the senseless death of George Floyd. Like so many people at this moment in our nation's history, we feel grief, frustration and anger.

AbilityOne is founded on – and dedicated to – the ideas of diversity, inclusion, opportunity and social justice. Many AbilityOne participants courageously fight discrimination in their daily lives.

Major customers of AbilityOne have recently issued powerful statements. In my Air Force role, for example, I received a letter from Air Force Chief of Staff David L. Goldfein that began:

*The death of George Floyd is a national tragedy. Every American should be outraged that the conduct exhibited by police in Minneapolis can still happen in 2020. We all wish it were not possible for racism to occur in America, a country founded on the sacred ideal that "all men (and women) are created equal" and have the "unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." But it does, and we are at a moment where we must confront what is.*

For its part, the Commission has previously stated that AbilityOne must be free from acts or threats of violence, harassment and other forms of abuse or discrimination, including those based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability and sexual orientation. The Commission has zero tolerance for violence, harassment, abuse or any form of unlawful discrimination.

It is our collective responsibility throughout the AbilityOne Program – the Commission, Central Nonprofit Agencies and Nonprofit Agencies – to deliberately create and sustain a culture of diversity, inclusion and equity as we fulfill our mission to provide employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the Federal Government.



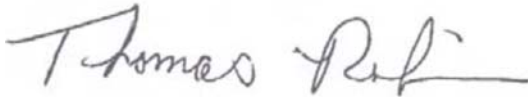
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To that end, it is essential that we create opportunities for education and real listening, and engage in a meaningful dialogue with our colleagues and employees. All of us, working together, can continue to build a future in which AbilityOne reflects what is best about America.

Sincerely,



Thomas D. Robinson  
Chairperson and Presidential Appointee



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