



SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (H.R. 5408/S. 2767)

Fact Sheet

The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) advocates for asset limitation reform that promotes labor force participation and independence among the Down syndrome community. In 2022, JPMorgan Chase & Co. released a report explaining how the current asset limitations impact people with disabilities. Below are key findings.

- People with disabilities face many **barriers to employment**: lack of education, transportation issues, lack of workplace accommodations, lack of needed services and supports, and patterns of discrimination.
- In 2021, only **19.1 percent** of individuals with disabilities were employed, compared to 64 percent of individuals without a disability.
- About **8 in 10 individuals** with a disability were not in the labor force in 2020.
- Supplemental Security Income asset limits have not changed since **1989**.
- Current asset limitations trap individuals with disabilities **below the federal poverty level**.
- Individual SSI beneficiaries are limited to **\$2,000** or less in assets. Married couples are limited to **\$3,000** in assets, which disincentivizes individuals with disabilities from getting married.
- Modernizing the SSI program under the **SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act** is estimated to cut poverty among SSI beneficiaries by more than half. It will also lift at least **3 million people** above the poverty line.

For more information, please contact Anna Fedewa, National Down Syndrome Society Manager of Federal Government Relations at afedewa@ndss.org