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.

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