



## ***Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in 50 States***

NDSS, along with our NDSS DS-Ambassadors and advocates, has worked tirelessly for eight years to pass the *Stephen J. Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act*. NDSS DS-Ambassadors, affiliates and advocates across the country were very active in this national effort securing both Senators and Representatives as cosponsors of the ABLE Act. With 454 cosponsors in the House and Senate (85% of Congress), the ABLE Act was the most bipartisan, bicameral bill in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, and likely the most bipartisan bill in the history of the US Congress. Signed into law by President Obama on December 19, 2014, the ABLE Act amends the federal tax code to allow Section 529A tax-exempt savings accounts for disability-related expenses. We anticipated the same level of bipartisanship in the state legislatures as each work toward the passage and implementation of state 529A ABLE accounts.

Currently, nine states have passed ABLE legislation with 33 states currently working on legislation. This is a widespread, cross-disability effort to enable individuals with disabilities and their families to save money to live meaningful, productive, and independent lives.

### **States that have already passed ABLE bills (10):**

- VA, WV, UT, KS, AR, ND, MD, LA\*, MA\*, MN\*

### **States with current ABLE legislation (28):**

- AL, CA, CT, DE, FL, HI, IL, IA, KY, LA, MN, MO, MT, NC, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, VT, WA

### **States with pending legislation (5):**

- AK, CO, MI, OH, WI

*\*Not a full ABLE bill, and subsequent legislation is needed to establish program*

### **ASK:**

Thank your Senators and Representative for supporting the *Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act*. (*Check Ds Scorecard*) Provide your Members with an update your state ABLE bill progress, and request support, if needed.