

## **Texas Achieving a Better Life Experience Act: Texas ABLE ACT**

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act is a federal bill that amended Section 529 of the IRS Code of 1986 that created (for the first time in the U.S.) a flexible tax-free savings account for people with disabilities to cover qualified expenses. The bill passed with bi-partisan support from 458 congressional co-sponsors and was signed into law on December 19<sup>th</sup> of 2014. Thirty-four of the co-sponsors were Texas representatives.

What is the **Texas ABLE ACT**:

- Enabling Texas legislation for the Federal ABLE ACT
- Creates a 529-like savings account for a qualified person with a disability
- Program initiation and oversight by the Texas Comptroller
- Yearly deposit and a maximum cap limits
- Allows a qualified person to retain Medicaid eligibility
- Medicaid fraud protections and state pay-back provisions
- Provides independence and self-direction for the account owner

Covers a specific range of expenses such as:

- education
- housing
- transportation
- employment training
- assistive technology
- personal support services
- health
- prevention and wellness
- financial management
- administrative services
- legal fees
- funeral and burial services
- other expenses

**SB 1664 (by Perry, Garcia, Rodriguez, Schwertner, and Watson)  
and HB 3766 (by Burkett, L. Gonzales, Lucio III, and Peña)  
will create the **Texas ABLE Act**.**

**CTD supports SB 1664 and HB 3766 and calls on the disability community to let your State Representatives know how important this effort is to you!**

Historically, people with disabilities have had limited, and very often expensive, options for saving money. With the passage of the **Texas ABLE** Act, eligible individuals with disabilities will be able to save their own earned income and benefit from the support of family and friends without the fear of losing their eligibility for Medicaid.

A person will be able to save up to \$14,000 each year with a maximum limit of \$100,000.

A **Texas ABLE** account allows eligible individuals with disabilities to save for their future!

A **Texas ABLE** account will allow people with disabilities to live more independent and self-directed lives!

## **Disability Groups Supporting SB 1664 & HB 3766**

- Access College Texas
- ADAPT
- Association of Centers for Independent Living (TACIL)
- Austin Resource Center for Independent Living (ARCIL)
  - Austin, San Marcos, & Round Rock
- Autism Society of Central Texas
- Autism Speaks
- Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP)
- Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
- Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living
- Community NOW!
- "Down" By The Border
- Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas (DSACT)
- Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas (DSG)
- Easter Seals of Central Texas
- RAISE Texas
- REACH Resource Centers on Independent Living
  - Dallas, Ft. Worth, Plano, & Denton
- Texas Association of Goodwills
- Texans Care for Children
- Texas Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition of Texas
- Texas Parent to Parent
- Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF)
- United Ways of Texas
- Valley Association for Independent Living (VAIL)
  - Rio Grande Valley, & McAllen
- Volar Center for Independent Living (VOLAR)

Many People with Disabilities, their Families, and Supporters