



ABLE Act Overview

Jerry Todd, MPS II dad

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2013 (S.313/H.R.647) was introduced in the 113th Congress (2013-2014) by Ander Crenshaw [R-FL4] in the House and by Robert Casey [D-PA] in the Senate.

ABLE Act would ease the financial burden for individuals with disabilities. The bill would create tax-exempt, state-based private savings accounts to fund disability-related expenses to supplement benefits currently provided by Social Security, Medicaid, employers and private insurance. These accounts can be created by individuals to support themselves or by families to support their dependents.

The account shall be treated similarly to a qualified tuition program, such as a 529. A 529 account allows families to save money for an individual's education without being disqualified for certain aid programs and prevents tax penalties on the money saved and any income earned from it.

Expenses would qualify as disability-related if they are for the benefit of an individual with a disability and are related to the disability. This includes education, housing, transportation, employment support, health, prevention and wellness costs, assistive technology, personal support services and other expenses.

There's still more to learn about this program and how it could fit into our lives — not to take the place of special needs trusts but to work in conjunction with a special needs trust. Many of these questions will not be answered until we see states adopt the ABLE Act account.

I've included links to two articles I found with information regarding the ABLE Act.

Parenting Special Needs:

<http://parentingspecialneeds.org/article/new-savings-accounts-may-fund-care/>

New York Times, March 27, 2015:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/28/your-money/future-care-of-disabled-family-members.html? r=2>