

September 16, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin:

On behalf of the more than 560 nonprofit agencies affiliated with NISH, I want to congratulate you on assuming the role of Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions!

The complexities of issues such as healthcare reform, labor standards, pensions, education and disability policy demand the skills and proven leadership that have characterized your long career in public service. From our perspective no one is better qualified for this key leadership role.

As a recognized Champion of our Program, your commitment to NISH and AbilityOne has been steadfast, and we are deeply appreciative of everything you have done to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Your assumption of the Chair could not have come at a more important time for NISH and our AbilityOne family as we have never been closer to introduction of legislation to modernize the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act. We very much look forward to working directly with you and your staff on this critical legislation that will increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities throughout our great Nation.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes!

Sincerely,



E. Robert Chamberlin
President and CEO

Cc: Ms. Evelyne Villines
NISH CRPs in Iowa