



FAMILIES, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In the continuing battle to preserve choice for adults with I/DD, over the past few months a small group of providers, families, and caregivers have formed a nonprofit 501 (c) (4) corporation. The intent of this Corporation is to support a full array of disability choices and obtain funding to pay for the costs of advocating and lobbying to protect the 14(c) exception. 14(c) has existed for over 60 years to allow employers to pay their workers commensurate wages based on productivity, regardless of ability. This allows people who are unable to successfully work competitively to work at their own pace and ability in a noncompetitive environment. The name of this corporation is **“COALITION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF 14(C), INC”**.

The creation of this entity has allowed us to hire a federal lobbyist group. This, along with a powerful public relations and grass roots campaign, is essential if we are to be successful. Our top priority is to ensure continued options for a safe and productive environment for all people with disabilities, including those with I/DD and other severe conditions. There are currently several bills that threaten vocational choices and center-based employment opportunities. We believe it is a civil right to receive accommodations that allow meaningful vocational opportunities that bring continued developmental progress and enhance self-worth.

After several lobbyist firms were vetted by our organization, we selected K&L Gates, a prominent Washington DC firm, finding their qualifications and experience to be exemplary. Based on the services they are providing, a monthly retainer of \$8,500.00 was proposed, which reflects a deep discount from their usual rates. All members of this lobbying team have an individual with special needs with whom they are connected, which provides a cogent reason for the discounted rate and increases their passion for supporting this cause.

K&L Gates lobbyist group has greatly enhanced our ability to educate various Senators and Representatives of the merits of our position. They have had the ability to have face-to-face meetings to convey the importance of the 14(c) for individuals with severe disabilities. We view this as essential and necessary, especially since opponents of 14(c) are strongly represented. All donations to our nonprofit organization go directly toward supporting this cause.

Here's how you can help:

1. If you are interested and able to make a donation, please send a check made out to “Coalition to Preserve 14(c), Inc.” and mail it to:

Coalition to Preserve 14(c), Inc. or
ATTN: Amy Patz
911 S. Main Street
Greensburg, PA 15601

Use the Paypal link found by scrolling
down on our Facebook Page:
(Website will soon be up as well)
*FB page is **Coalition to preserve 14c**

https://www.facebook.com/Coalition-to-preserve-14c-107138694954470/?ref=page_internal

(Donations are **not** tax deductible as they will be used for political purposes).

You may contribute as much or as little as you choose. Any questions, contact Amy at: 724-837-1250 ext. 11

2. In the near future, we will be sharing another document called **“CALL TO ACTION”** to share how you can become involved in helping the Coalition to protect and preserve 14(c). Please consider participating in A-TEAM USA's National Week for Choice this fall!

Thank you for considering contributing to this important cause. Your donation and efforts provide an avenue to make a meaningful impact on the lives of people who cannot speak for themselves. It is up to us to speak up and advocate to preserve disability support services!