Dear [Legislative Director First Name]:

I am writing to urge Representative [Last Name] to cosponsor H.R. 188, the Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment (TIME) Act. This bill would phase out, over a three year period, the ability to pay people with disabilities less than the minimum wage.

The [2016 Republican Party Platform](https://prod-static-ngop-pbl.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/DRAFT_12_FINAL%5b1%5d-ben_1468872234.pdf) adopted in Cleveland says, "Our TIME Act (Transition to Integrated and Meaningful Employment) will modernize the Fair Labor Standards Act to encourage competitive employment for persons with disabilities."

On September 15th, the [Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Advisory Committee Final Report](https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/pdf/ACICIEID_Final_Report_9-8-16.pdf) recommended that, “Congress amend the FLSA to allow for a multi-year, well-planned phase out of Section 14(c).”

Tom Ridge, the 43rd Governor of Pennsylvania, and former Secretary of Homeland Security, recently published an [op-ed in The Hill](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/labor/280336-time-to-act-on-real-employment-for-people-with-disabilities) urging Congress to pass legislation to end this discriminatory pay treatment of people with disabilities.

Recently, an [article in The Nation](https://www.thenation.com/article/people-with-disabilities-minimum-wage/) from earlier this month mentions the TIME Act by name, and states that this issue “is not one of disability rights but of human rights.”

This is a bipartisan issue. Of the seventy cosponsors, forty-seven are Democrats and twenty-three are Republicans. Congressman Harper, a Republican from Mississippi is the bill sponsor. There is also companion legislation in the Senate sponsored by Senator Ayotte from New Hampshire.

Representative [Last Name] is a terrific champion for people with disabilities and for fair pay for all Americans. As a person who is blind, and on behalf of all Americans with disabilities, I urge the Representative to cosponsor this important legislation.

Warm Regards,