

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1401

Directing the Committee on House Administration to take certain actions to promote the procurement of goods and services from the AbilityOne program established under chapter 85 of title 41, United States Code (commonly known as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act), and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2024

Ms. CROCKETT (for herself, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. THOMPSON of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

Directing the Committee on House Administration to take certain actions to promote the procurement of goods and services from the AbilityOne program established under chapter 85 of title 41, United States Code (commonly known as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act), and for other purposes.

Whereas, in 1971, Congress passed the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act to advance employment opportunities for Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities by requiring the Federal Government, including legislative entities, when seeking to procure a product or service, to first assess whether their needs can be met by products or services provided by Ability One Participating Agen-

cies and included on the AbilityOne Procurement List maintained by the AbilityOne Commission; and

Whereas, as a result of the AbilityOne Program, tens of thousands of Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities, including a large and growing number of returning veterans, are employed at competitive wages providing products and services to the Federal Government, greatly enhancing their self-sufficiency and providing critical career skills: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. PROMOTING PROCUREMENT OF ABILITYONE**
 3 **PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR HOUSE OF**
 4 **REPRESENTATIVES.**

5 (a) UPDATE TO GENERAL GUIDELINES.—

6 (1) PROCUREMENT BY CAO.—Not later than
 7 January 1, 2025, the Committee on House Adminis-
 8 tration shall update the Committee document enti-
 9 tled “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods and
 10 Services for the U.S. House of Representatives” to
 11 direct the Chief Administrative Officer to procure, to
 12 the maximum extent practicable, products and serv-
 13 ices which are included on the AbilityOne Procure-
 14 ment List from Participating AbilityOne Agencies.

15 (2) APPLICABILITY TO ALL PRODUCTS AND
 16 SERVICES PROCURED.—Paragraph (1) shall apply
 17 with respect to products and services procured by
 18 the Chief Administrative Officer for the use of Office

1 of the Chief Administrative Officer or any other of-
2 fice of the House, including products and services
3 which are procured by the Chief Administrative Offi-
4 cer and made available to other offices of the House
5 through the House Supply Store.

6 (b) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSE SUPPLY
7 STORE.—Not later than January 1, 2025, the Committee
8 on House Administration shall take the following actions
9 with respect to the operation of the House Supply Store:

10 (1) Ensuring that on the internal website of the
11 House Supply Store, AbilityOne products and serv-
12 ices are ranked as the first result in generic product
13 filters and generic product searches.

14 (2) Including on the homepage of the internal
15 website of the House Supply Store a separate
16 hyperlink through which users may find all of the
17 products and services of the Store which are
18 AbilityOne products and services.

19 (3) The placement of permanent signage in
20 prominent locations in the Store which identifies
21 AbilityOne products and services.

22 (c) NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION PROGRAM.—

23 (1) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION IN PRO-
24 GRAM.—As part of the orientation program for
25 Members-elect, the Committee on House Administra-

1 tion, in consultation with the Director of the Con-
 2 gressional Research Service, shall develop program-
 3 ming and other events to provide Members-elect with
 4 information on—

5 (A) an overview of the AbilityOne Pro-
 6 gram;

7 (B) the economic impact of such program
 8 nationally, and to the best approximation, the
 9 economic impact of the program on the State
 10 and congressional district of each Member-elect;
 11 and

12 (C) maximizing an office’s procurement
 13 from AbilityOne Participating Agencies.

14 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall
 15 apply with respect to the orientation program for
 16 Members-elect to the One Hundred Nineteenth Con-
 17 gress and each succeeding Congress.

18 **SEC. 2. ABILITYONE REPRESENTATIVE.**

19 (a) DESIGNATION OF POSITION.—

20 (1) OFFICE OF THE CAO.—Not later than 30
 21 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution,
 22 the Chief Administrative Officer shall designate an
 23 employee in the Office of the Chief Administrative
 24 Officer to serve in a position to be known as the
 25 “AbilityOne Representative”.

1 (2) DUTIES.—The employee serving as the
2 AbilityOne Representative shall carry out the fol-
3 lowing duties:

4 (A) Promoting the purchase and use of
5 AbilityOne products and services within the Of-
6 fice of the Chief Administrative Officer.

7 (B) Providing the data required for pre-
8 paring the annual report required under section
9 3.

10 (C) Ensuring compliance with AbilityOne
11 Commission regulations, as applicable.

12 (D) Serving as a liaison to Members of the
13 House of Representatives, AbilityOne Partici-
14 pating Agencies, the AbilityOne Commission,
15 and the Commission's central nonprofit coordi-
16 nating agencies on matters in the Office which
17 relate to the AbilityOne program.

18 (E) Developing and monitoring the imple-
19 mentation of a written strategic plan for in-
20 creasing procurement by the Office from the
21 AbilityOne program.

22 (b) APPLICATION TO OTHER SUPPORT OFFICES
23 UPON DIRECTION OF COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINIS-
24 TRATION.—The Committee on House Administration may
25 direct a support office of the House to designate an em-

1 ployee of the office to serve in the position of AbilityOne
2 Representative in the same manner and subject to the
3 same terms and conditions which apply under subsection
4 (a) to the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

5 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT.**

6 Not later than January 1 of each calendar year, be-
7 ginning with 2025, the Chief Administrative Officer shall
8 submit to the Committee on House Administration a re-
9 port on—

10 (1) the total amount spent on the procurement
11 of products and services by the Office of the Chief
12 Administrative Officer during the previous fiscal
13 year;

14 (2) of the amount described in paragraph (1),
15 the total amount spent on AbilityOne products and
16 services;

17 (3) of the products and services described in
18 paragraph (1), a description of the products or serv-
19 ices which were purchased from the AbilityOne pro-
20 gram and which were not;

21 (4) for each product and service described in
22 paragraph (3) which was not purchased from the
23 AbilityOne program, an explanation of why the prod-
24 uct or service was procured from a source outside of
25 the AbilityOne program;

1 (5) qualitative information on efforts to in-
2 crease procurement through the AbilityOne program;
3 and

4 (6) qualitative information on any obstacles
5 faced in increasing procurement from the AbilityOne
6 program.

7 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this resolution, the following definitions apply:

9 (1) The term “AbilityOne Commission” means
10 the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are
11 Blind or Severely Disabled established under section
12 8502 of title 41, United States Code.

13 (2) The term “AbilityOne Participating Agen-
14 cy” means a nonprofit agency for the blind or a non-
15 profit agency employing persons with significant dis-
16 abilities which is authorized by the AbilityOne Com-
17 mission to provide products or services pursuant to
18 chapter 85 of title 41, United States Code (com-
19 monly known as the Javits-Wagner-O’Day Act), and
20 associated regulations.

21 (3) The term “AbilityOne Procurement List”
22 means the list of products and services determined
23 by the AbilityOne Commission to be suitable to be
24 procured by the Federal Government from

1 AbilityOne Participating Agencies pursuant to sec-
2 tion 8503 of title 41, United States Code.

3 (4) The term “AbilityOne program” means the
4 program established under chapter 85 of title 41,
5 United States Code (commonly known as the Javits-
6 Wagner-O’Day Act).

7 (5) The term “Member of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives” includes a Delegate or Resident Com-
9 missioner to the Congress.

10 (6) The term “support office of the House”
11 means an office of the House other than the office
12 of a Member of the House of Representatives, the
13 office of a committee (including a select committee),
14 or a House leadership office.

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