

**Congressman Danny Davis and Congresswoman Diane Black
House Ways and Means Committee**

Comments: The Working Group on Education and Family Benefits

My name is George Landegger, Jr. and I live with my wife and two children, Ian, 9 and Luke, 7, in Mamaroneck, NY.

As parents, my wife and I want to make sure that our sons' future is as secure as possible. Our oldest son, Ian, has Down syndrome and therefore creates some more challenges for us in securing his future well-being.

People with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities face a multitude of challenges that inhibit them from gaining access to meaningful job opportunities, economic and financial security, and independence.

For our youngest son, Luke, we have set up a 529 tax advantages college saving plan, but for Ian we have not because he will likely not attend college due to his disability.

For people with intellectual disabilities, there is no tax advantaged saving plan to mitigate the financial burden to the State or the family.

As you study changes to the tax code, please include provisions that assist parents of individuals with disabilities to save in order to help their child live an independent and meaningful life while reducing their dependency on public benefits by allowing for tax-exempt savings accounts. With these funds, certain expenses, including: medical and dental care, education, community based supports, employment training, assistive technology, housing, and transportation could be paid. The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2013 (S.313/H.R.647) introduced by Reps. Crenshaw, McMorris, Rodgers, and Van Hollen is a good starting point.

As Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Education and Family Benefits of the Ways and Means Committee you are in a position to make a real difference for individuals with disabilities, like my son Ian, by supporting tax provisions that ease the financial burden on families and reduce the individual's need for state and federal benefits.

Sincerely,

George Landegger, Jr.