

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 17, 2018

The Honorable Emily W. Murphy  
Administrator  
U.S. General Services Administration  
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Murphy:

We write today regarding the U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) work to implement Sec. 846 of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (Procurement Through Commercial E-Commerce Portals), and the importance of protecting the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act and federal agency purchasing of products through the AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program provides employment opportunities for over 45,000 Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities. The JWOD Act mandates that federal government entities obtain any products or services included on the AbilityOne Program Procurement List from a nonprofit agency employing persons who are blind or have other significant disabilities as long as that product or service is available within the normal period required by that government entity.

We applaud GSA for highlighting the AbilityOne Program as one of the "*Unique Government requirements that advance key national interests...*" in its March 2018 Implementation Plan. We strongly concur with that statement and support the AbilityOne Program and the opportunities it affords people who are blind or significantly disabled to secure quality employment and enhance their opportunities for personal and economic independence.

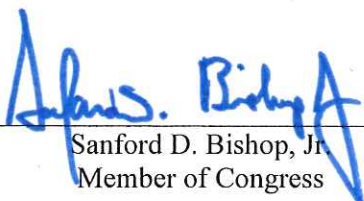
As GSA moves forward with the next two phases of its work to implement Sec. 846, we strongly urge the agency to fully assess any possible impacts regarding the use of commercial e-Commerce portals on the AbilityOne Program and the SKILCRAFT and AbilityOne products it currently sells to federal customers.

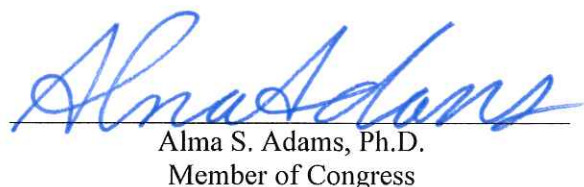
We support the use of commercial e-Commerce portals in order to streamline federal government acquisition, and believe this can be achieved while also strengthening socioeconomic programs such as AbilityOne that support the federal marketplace.

The federal government can modernize its purchasing practices while still fully complying with the JWOD Act, ensuring continued employment for tens of thousands of Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities.

We thank you, again, for GSA's support for the AbilityOne Program.

Sincerely,

  
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

*Nanette Diaz Barragan*

Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress

*Susan W. Brooks*

Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress

*Andre Carson*

Andre Carson  
Member of Congress

*Emanuel Cleaver, II*

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

*Barbara Comstock*

Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress

*Val B. Demings*

Val Demings  
Member of Congress

*Mike Doyle*

Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

*Brian Higgins*

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

*Will Hurd*

Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

*Hank Johnson*

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Luke Messer*

Luke Messer  
Member of Congress

*Gwen Moore*

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

*David E. Price*

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*Jamie Raskin*

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Member of Congress

*David P. Roe*

David P. Roe, M.D.  
Member of Congress

*Pete Sessions*

Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith

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Lamar Smith  
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney

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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson

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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson

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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

Fred Upton

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Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela

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Filemon Vela  
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David Young

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David Young  
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon

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Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress