



Making Disability Employment a National Priority on the 22nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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WASHINGTON, DC (July 26, 2012) - As the nation and the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN[®]) celebrates the 22nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) today, the USBLN[®] encourages everyone to read [Senator Tom Harkin's report](#) urging Congress, the Administration, the business community, and society at large to make the issue of disability employment a national priority.

In the report, Senator Harkin highlights the initiatives made by several USBLN[®] member companies, including Walgreens, Lowe's and AT&T. In his report, Senator Harkin notes the "dismal disability employment situation" of today and states that we should all have a stake in making equal employment opportunity the rule rather than the exception. In early June, the CEO of Walgreens hosted a CEO meeting that was attended by Senator Harkin and the new Chair of the National Governors Association (NGA), Jack Markell of Delaware. Governor Markell recently announced that boosting disability employment will be his signature focus during his tenure as the leader of the NGA.

Senator Harkin goes on to note that many companies are not waiting for the final OFCCP regulations, but have taken the initiative to set ambitious goals for including people with disabilities in their workforces. In fact, he mentions, "private sector leaders such as Walgreens have shown it is possible to employ people with disabilities in a manner that spurs innovation, improves morale, increases productivity, lowers turnover, and improves the company's bottom line."

To learn more about how to navigate disability-employment best practices in light of the continuously evolving social, competitive, and regulatory environments of today, join the USBLN[®] at the [15th Annual Conference & Expo](#) in Orlando, Florida October 1 -4, 2012. The premier business-to-business conference, "**Disability Inclusion Driving Success in a Competitive Business Environment**," focuses on disability inclusion in the workplace, marketplace, and supply chain. Over 600 professionals from across the country are expected to attend, including representatives from Corporate America, Business Leadership Networks, Disability-Owned Business Enterprises, plus non-profit, state, and federal agencies. www.usblnannualconference.org

About the US Business Leadership Network[®] (USBLN[®])

The US Business Leadership Network[®] (USBLN[®]) is a national non-profit, non-partisan business to business network promoting workplaces, marketplaces, and supply chains where people with disabilities are included. The USBLN[®] serves as the collective voice of over 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across the United States, representing over 5,000 businesses. Additionally, the USBLN[®] Disability Supplier Diversity Program[®] (DSDP) is the nation's leading third party certification program for disability-owned businesses, including service-disabled veterans. www.usbln.org

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