



# PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SMA

*Support the Disability Employment Incentive Act and funding for the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities is regularly twice as high than for individuals without disabilities. ([Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#))
- People with disabilities live in poverty at more than twice the rate of people without disabilities, and more than 65 percent of working-age adults with disabilities participate in at least one safety net or income support program. ([Source: National Council on Disabilities Report](#))
- Nearly 20% of adults with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) who seek full-time employment are either unemployed or working only part-time. Most part-time employees with SMA choose to work only part-time due to SMA health-related complications (33%) or to stay below an income threshold to qualify for or retain public healthcare (i.e., Medicaid) or other community benefits (27%). ([Source: Cure SMA Community Survey](#)).
- Adults with SMA are highly qualified and educated, with 30% earning a bachelor's degree and 20% completing a master's degree. ([Source: Cure SMA Community Survey](#))

## WHY CONGRESS SHOULD ACT

Many working-age individuals with SMA struggle to find employment or are underemployed even though employment was among the highest priorities identified by adults and young adults with SMA. Individuals with SMA and other disabilities represent an untapped talent resource for employers seeking qualified, reliable, loyal, and productive workers.

## CURE SMA POSITION

To increase employment opportunities, and breakdown workplace barriers that exist for individuals with SMA and other disabilities, Cure SMA urges Congress to pass the Disability Employment Incentive Act that incentivizes hiring of people with disabilities and support funding for the State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program that provides job training and employment services to jobseekers with disabilities:

- The Disability Employment Incentive Act would incentivize the hiring of individuals with SMA and other disabilities by expanding tax credits for employers who hire individuals with disabilities and for businesses who make their workplaces more accessible for their employees with disabilities.
  - Increases the Work Opportunity Tax Credit from \$2,400 to a maximum of \$5,000 for employers who hire an eligible person with a disability.
  - Increases the Disability Access Expenditures Tax Credit from \$5,000 to a maximum of \$10,000 for small businesses who incur an expense for making their workplaces accessible for employees with disabilities.
  - Increases the Architectural and Transportation Barrier Tax Credit from \$15,000 to a maximum of \$30,000 for expenses during a single year to remove a physical barrier, such as making a building entrance or vehicle accessible.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Program provides formula funds to all states and U.S. territories to help transition-age youth and adults with disabilities find and retain competitive integrated employment and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.
  - Fully fund the VR Services Program to ensure that individuals with SMA and other disabilities can access employment services to help them find jobs.



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Cure SMA is a national organization that advocates for individuals with spinal muscular atrophy, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that robs people of physical strength, taking away their ability to walk, swallow, and breathe.