



## **Christina Brandt and Virna Winters Elected to Lead U.S. AbilityOne Commission**

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 12, 2026 – Christina Brandt and Virna Winters were elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, respectively, at an executive session of the Commission.

Brandt is a private citizen member of the Commission representing the interests of nonprofit agency employees with significant disabilities. She was the Commission’s Vice Chairperson in 2025 and has served as Interim Chairperson since the beginning of this year. Winters is the Department of Commerce representative to the Commission. The Commission’s 15 members are appointed by the President of the United States.

“I am honored to serve as the Chairperson of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission and am delighted that Virna Winters joins me as Vice Chairperson,” Brandt said. “I am committed to working with the other Commission members to drive value, efficiency, and accountability across the AbilityOne Program as it creates private sector jobs for people who are blind or have significant disabilities.”

Brandt is a consultant specializing in training and technical assistance on customized and integrated community employment. She was the longtime CEO of AtWork!, an innovative nonprofit headquartered in the Seattle area. She transformed that organization from a sheltered workshop paying subminimum wages to a nationally recognized best-practice provider of customized and integrated community employment – including AbilityOne Federal contract jobs – for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Throughout her career, Brandt has advanced independence and economic participation for people with disabilities. She did significant work in Oregon to implement the settlement of Lane vs. Brown and was instrumental in securing Washington State’s “Employment First” legislation.

Winters is the Associate Director for Acquisition Policy in the Office of Acquisition Management at the Department of Commerce. She is responsible for providing strategic leadership; implementing departmental acquisition policies, regulations, and standards; overseeing contracting offices that provide operational procurement services; and managing the Department’s acquisition workforce development and charge card programs. She has over 30 years of Federal acquisition experience as contracting officer and procurement analyst and has served in various leadership positions including Acting Deputy Senior Procurement Executive, and Acting Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.



*The U.S. AbilityOne Commission is the operating name for  
the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled*



### **About the U.S. AbilityOne Commission**

The U.S. AbilityOne Commission oversees the AbilityOne Program. The Commission is the operating name of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. The Commission is an independent Federal agency composed of 15 Presidential appointees: 11 represent Federal agencies, and four serve as private citizens who are knowledgeable about employment barriers facing people who are blind or have significant disabilities.

### **About the AbilityOne Program**

The AbilityOne Program facilitates the use of government procurement to provide employment in the United States for people who are blind or have significant disabilities. In FY 2025, approximately 41,000 individuals, including approximately 2,800 veterans and wounded warriors, were employed nationwide at approximately 400 nonprofit agencies from Maine to Guam. In addition, AbilityOne provided more than \$4.7 billion in products and services to approximately 40 Federal government agencies.

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