



## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED (COMMITTEE)

# POLICY DECLARATION

*Whereas*, the Committee affirms that the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act was enacted into law on June 23, 1971 as Public Law 92-28, for the purpose of increasing employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities;

*Whereas*, the Committee, its designated central nonprofit agencies, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH (Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities), along with a network of nonprofit agencies throughout the United States who provide employment and training for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities, have combined to form an exceptionally effective program under the banner of *AbilityOne*;

*Whereas*, pursuant to the authority of the JWOD Act, the Committee has promulgated regulations at 41 Code of Federal Regulations Chapter 51, which includes the policy statement as follows:

*"It is the policy of the Government to increase employment  
and training opportunities for persons  
who are blind or have other severe disabilities...."*

*Whereas*, the process identified by Congress for the Committee to achieve the mission of increased employment and training opportunities for persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities is through the full application of the Federal procurement process; and

*Whereas*, the success of the *AbilityOne* Program since its inception is unquestioned and profound in that it is the largest employer of people with disabilities in the United States.

*NOW THEREFORE*, in recognition of the foresight of the congressional founders of this program and the significant achievements of the *AbilityOne* Program since its inception, the Committee hereby declares its policy and guiding principle to be:

*The AbilityOne Program, under the authority of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, is recognized as an **employment** program for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities; and*

*The AbilityOne Program achieves its mission of creating **employment** through the effective and innovative use of the Federal procurement system.*

Dated: May 17, 2010

*Andrew D. Houghton*  
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**Andrew D. Houghton**  
Chairperson – Private Citizen

*Robert T. (Bob) Kelly, Jr.*  
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**Robert T. (Bob) Kelly, Jr.**  
Member – Private Citizen

*J. Anthony Poleo*  
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**J. Anthony Poleo**  
Member – Department of Defense

*Abram Claude, Jr.*  
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**Abram Claude, Jr.**  
Member – Private Citizen

*James H. Omvig*  
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**James H. Omvig**  
Vice-Chairperson – Private Citizen

*P. Edward Anthony*  
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**P. Edward Anthony**  
Member – Department of Education

*Paul M. Laird*  
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**Paul M. Laird**  
Member – Department of Justice