



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Casey to Visit Abilities in Motion Next Week

Reading, Pa. – United States Senator Bob Casey is expected to visit Abilities in Motion on Tuesday, October 8 at 10:30 a.m. to meet with staff and receive the Shining Star Award, which recognizes a community leader with a demonstrated record of advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. Senator Casey’s remarks regarding the award will be shared during our 30th Anniversary Giving Thanks Grand Gala on October 9 as we recognize him during the program for his advocacy work.

Stephanie Quigley, Executive Director of Abilities in Motion, issued the following statement: “AIM is honored to recognize Senator Casey for his outstanding efforts in protecting the rights of people with disabilities. His demonstrated commitment to push for legislation that includes and safeguards people with disabilities shows many Pennsylvanians that they have an advocate in Washington, DC that will fight to keep disability issues at the forefront.”

Senator Casey has a consistent track record of promoting legislation that protects Americans with disabilities. One of the first actions Senator Casey took when he was re-elected was to become an original cosponsor of the Disability Integration Act, a bipartisan bill to make home and community-based services and supports fully available to people with disabilities. Senator Casey’s Office of Disability Policy Act was designed to provide the general public and members of Congress with non-partisan information about how a proposal to change a program like Medicaid would affect individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers.

He was instrumental in establishing Pennsylvania’s PA ABLE program, which has made it possible for over 2,000 Pennsylvanians with disabilities to save money to pay for disability-related expenses such as education, medical and dental care, employment training and support, assistive technology, personal support services, transportation, and other expenses. Senator Casey has also introduced legislation to encourage businesses to hire people with disabilities and to strengthen the service delivery network that supports workers with disabilities.

Senator Casey wrote and introduced the READI for Disasters Act, which ensures people with disabilities and older adults are part of national, state, and local preparation for disasters and that all responses and recovery efforts are accessible to people with disabilities and older adults. Additionally, he introduced the bipartisan RISE (Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower) Act, which makes it easier for post-

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secondary students with disabilities to get the supports and accommodations they need to be academically successful.

Through setting a standard for promoting and protecting disability rights and the independent living philosophy, Senator Casey's work ties directly into the mission of Abilities in Motion—to improve mobility, to improve access, to improve inclusion, and to improve quality of life for people with disabilities.

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Abilities in Motion is Berks County's Center for Independent Living. We offer support services, education, and advocacy for over 3,700 individuals with disabilities in over 30 counties in the state. AIM's purpose is reflected in the Rehabilitation Act, which states that "disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society, pursue meaningful careers, and enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society."