

## ! a message from **OUR CEO**

**KIM CORNWELL**  
EP!C CEO

### **ACTION ALERT: TELL CONGRESS: SUPPORT THE SSI SAVINGS PENALTY ELIMINATION ACT.**

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides critical support for millions of people with disabilities to be able to afford necessities like food and rent. But it has many rules that make it hard for people to save money and get out of poverty. On June 16, 2021 Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown introduced historic legislation to update the long neglected SSI program. [\(See Bill Status of S.4102\)](#)



For over 30 years there has been an asset limit that states people who get SSI can only have \$2,000 in assets with married couples only allowed to have \$3,000. The last time the limit was updated to this level was in 1989. Assets include money across bank accounts, retirement accounts, and savings. Along with limits also comes rules against in-kind support (friends and family) such as help with groceries, clothing, or a place to stay. It's important to note, SSI benefits have never been large enough to raise an individual's income past the federal poverty line. SSI's maximum is \$841/mo. where the poverty line is \$1,133/mo.

These asset limits mean that people cannot save money and force people with disabilities to remain in poverty. For EP!C that can look like our staff or guardians trying to find ways to help individuals spend their money whether they want to or not so they remain eligible. It could be going on a vacation, having an experience, or purchasing something for themselves. This all sounds nice, but if the individual doesn't want to spend their money, they shouldn't have to. The same goes for someone saving for something larger, they could never exceed \$2,000 of their full assets. There is no "saving for a rainy day" with the current penalties.

**TAKE ACTION:** Urge your U.S Senators to support people with disabilities and their families by cosponsoring the bipartisan SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (S.4102) which would raise these asset limits. **It takes less than a minute to send emails to Leaders.** Click the link provided on our website to fill out a simple form that automates everything for you. Take direct action today and encourage your family and friends to do the same!

*Thank you on behalf of EP!C Individuals and Staff.*