



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 20, 2015**

## **California ABLE Act Meetings to Begin This Week**

Sacramento, CA — Last month, Governor Brown signed into law the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE Act) program here in California for disability-related expenses in the state. The ability to save money without losing federal benefits, such as Social Security Supplemental Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income, has disability advocates in California elated.

To help implement the new provisions, the law creates the California ABLE Act Board consisting of the state Treasurer, the Director of Finance, the Controller, the Director of Developmental Services, the Chairperson of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Director of Rehabilitation, and the Chair of the State Independent Living Council, or their designees. The first meeting will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup>, and the State Council is excited about moving forward with the rollout.

“We are deeply thankful to Governor Brown for signing the California ABLE Act. This law is essential for people with disabilities to save for their future. We are eager to get to work,” said Dr. April Lopez, Chair of California’s State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD).

SCDD will take a lead role in orchestrating the ABLE Act in the Golden State. The federal ABLE Act, enacted in December of 2014, amended federal law to disregard ABLE account funds for means-tested federal programs such as SSI and Medicaid, which cap (usually at \$2,000) the amount an individual with a disability may save. The California legislation sponsored by Senator Fran Pavley (Senate Bill No. 324) and Assembly member Jacqui Irwin (Assembly Bill No. 449) created the California ABLE Act. The ABLE Act applies to individuals with disabilities who are on SSI or SSDI before the age of 26.

ABLE laws have now been enacted in 31 states including Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

###

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is established by state and federal law is an independent state agency to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports they need. [www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov)

Contact: Nelly Nieblas  
nelly.nieblas@scdd.ca.gov  
916-708-5544