



HUGH NATHANIAL HALPERN
Director



January 16, 2024

The Honorable Jasmine Crockett
1616 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcus J. Molinaro
1207 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dina Titus
2464 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman
2055 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gwen S. Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Crockett, Molinaro, Titus, Wittman, & Moore,

Thank you for your December 11th letter (attached) which asked several questions of legislative branch agencies regarding their engagement with the AbilityOne program. The Government Publishing Office (GPO) has a long history with AbilityOne and values the relationships with the vendors we have engaged through AbilityOne. In the years ahead, we would welcome the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with AbilityOne Commission representatives.

Below are our attempts to answer the specific questions asked in your letter and we would be pleased to discuss our engagement with AbilityOne with your offices at any time.

- 1. We ask that you provide information as to whether each of your respective offices collect internal data on procurement from AbilityOne, and whether you are committed to publishing that data so that Congress is able to monitor compliance with the statute?**

Two different contracting offices within GPO engage with AbilityOne: our Acquisitions Services organization, which administers contracts and procurements on behalf of GPO, and our Customer Services business unit which administers procurements on behalf of our Federal agency customers. The goods and services procured through Acquisitions Services support GPO's internal operations, while Customer Services helps our Federal agency customers procure the printed products needed to fulfill their missions.

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GPO's Acquisition Services is committed to supporting and partnering with AbilityOne programs when making procurements on GPO's behalf. In fact, Acquisition Services identifies AbilityOne sources for requirements in their pre-award market research documentation, and if it is determined that the AbilityOne program cannot be used to fulfill a particular requirement, it is documented in the market research justification.

Acquisition Services is committed to procuring goods and services through the AbilityOne program to the maximum extent practicable. A review initiated in response to your letter revealed that approximately 1.65% of Acquisition Services' contracts were awarded through the AbilityOne program, including government purchase card transactions. Some of the products Acquisitions Services procures for GPO through AbilityOne include highlighters, markers, pens, ink pads, cleaners, and safety goggles.

The acquisition workforce, to include the Chief Acquisition Officer, Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, Program Manager, Management Analyst and Purchasing Agents, are responsible for ensuring they follow the priority of sources for the procurement of products and services. They work closely with the AbilityOne points of contact (internal and external) to ensure all qualified requirements are awarded in accordance with our internal regulations (MMAR) to the maximum extent practicable.

GPO's Customer Services business unit performs contract management services for other Federal agencies, most notably in the print procurement space. In fiscal year 2023, Customer Services made 183 AbilityOne contract awards for a total of \$1,220,542.13. Major AbilityOne awards through Customer Services include procurements for business cards for our Federal agency customers, as well as memorandum books, folders, and notepads.

- 2. When your office begins the process of procuring a product or service, do your offices work with the AbilityOne Commission to ensure they are aware of what your needs are so as to allow their vendors and distributors to reach out if they already have the product or service, or explore getting into that space to fill that need? If not, are you committed to enhancing your procurement transparency?**

Acquisitions Services requires a review of AbilityOne sources prior to any contract award for goods and services. Customer Services is committed to ensuring that procurements through GPO are thoroughly reviewed and that any item that falls under the Procurement List is appropriately awarded to the AbilityOne designated provider. Both offices are fully aware of their obligations with respect to AbilityOne, and supportive of the mission of the program.

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3. Will your office commit to designating an AbilityOne Representative (ABOR) within your office, charged with advocating for your office's increased use of the program, serving as a liaison with the Commission, and generally fulfilling the role as nearly as is applicable described by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Memorandum, "Increasing the Participation of Americans with Disabilities in Federal Contracting"?

Ted Priebe, GPO's Managing Director for Customer Services, is currently listed as GPO's point of contact on the AbilityOne site. He has served as a liaison to the Commission for several years and, moving forward, Ted will serve as our official AbilityOne Representative (ABOR).

GPO would very much like to deepen its engagement with the Commission to explore if there are opportunities for additional collaboration. We welcome Commission representatives to reach out to Ted at their convenience.

Across our agency, GPO is committed to promoting the goal of increasing the participation of Americans with Disabilities in Federal contracting. If your staff should have any follow-up questions regarding GPO's engagement with AbilityOne, please welcome them to contact Jay McCarthy in our Congressional Relations office at either jmccarthy@gpo.gov or (202) 512-1968.

Sincerely,



HUGH NATHANIAL HALPERN
Director

Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Democratic Leader
The Honorable Bryan Steil, Chairman of the Committee on House Administration
The Honorable Joseph D. Morelle, Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration