

Advocates Applaud President for Ending Sub-Minimum Wages for People with Disabilities in New Federal Contracts

Washington -- February 12, 2014 -- "The Bazelon Center applauds President Obama for his new Executive Order that will prohibit future federal contracts for services from paying people with disabilities sub-minimum wages," stated Robert Bernstein, president and CEO of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. "This is a remarkable step toward ending the discriminatory practice of paying sub-minimum wages based on a person's disability."

"With this Executive Order, the Obama administration sets the example for Congress and the rest of the country to follow -- that people with disabilities deserve the same opportunities and wages as anyone else," stated Jennifer Mathis, director of programs at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. "People with disabilities have shown over and over again that they can work and succeed in regular, competitive jobs and deserve equal pay."

The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and other advocates worked with the White House to ensure the new Executive Order raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 for future federal contracts would also forbid sub-minimum wages for people with disabilities in those contracts. President Obama signed the Executive Order today. Access the White House's press release [here](#).