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Good Morning Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander and Senators of the HELP Committee,

My name is Justin Herbst. I am honored and humbled to be with you today in Washington, D.C.

I have cerebral palsy because I was born 10 weeks early and I had a serious stroke when I was only three days old. My disability has never deterred me from achieving my goals.

I am the perfect example of what the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act can do for American children. I grew up in Western Springs, Illinois where I was fully included in regular education classes since Kindergarten. Throughout school, I was encouraged to compete with my able-bodied peers. I had an Individualized Education Plan and received PT, OT, Speech and other Special Education services.

I made plenty of friends and never felt excluded because of my disability. After graduating from Lyons Township High School, I attended Southern Illinois University thanks to a Pell Grant and support from the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

Southern Illinois University is a great school and gave me many opportunities to grow as an individual. While at Southern Illinois, I received help through the Disability Support Services Office including extra time, note-takers and alternative test sites. I am proud that I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in History, a minor in Philosophy, with a solid 3.49 GPA.

The U.S. Government has assisted me tremendously in helping me get to where I am today.

Through the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, I have a Personal Care Assistant to help me get in and out of bed, toilet, dress, shower, cook and clean. I will always need the support of a personal care attendant, because I am a quadriplegic and I cannot move on my own. It is difficult to be a quadriplegic, but it is the life I live and I would not trade it for any other.

During college when I was not working, I received Supplemental Security Income, which was approximately \$670 a month, to help me live independently. I always knew SSI was a temporary solution because I wanted to join the workforce and make my own success story.

After graduating from Southern Illinois University, I found a wonderful job working at UPS at the Hodgkins, Illinois Facility. The UPS Chicago Area Consolidation Hub is the largest ground package sorting facility in the world. UPS is approximately 4 miles from my home. As a UPS employee I receive benefits like medical insurance, dental and vision insurance, vacation time, continuing education and job training. I am also eligible to receive 3 1/2% matching contributions from UPS to a 401(K) retirement plan. UPS has been incredibly accommodating regarding my disability – they understand my disability and my strengths - and I have always felt like a strong part of the UPS team, able to give back and work independently.

Since becoming an employee of UPS, I no longer receive SSI benefits – I am now a tax payer!

Last year I earned \$27,800.00 working at UPS and paid \$6,000 in taxes: \$4,500 to the Federal Government and \$1,300 to the State of Illinois.

I am thankful for my parents, family, friends, teachers, therapists, co-workers, Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, and the United States Government, who have all helped me become the man I am today.

Despite all of the successes I have had in my life, I still face glaring problems in keeping my job:

I am not eligible for transportation services from the PACE Disability program because of where I live. I live more than three quarters of a mile from a fixed bus route and my job is more than three quarters of a mile from a fixed bus route, so paratransit services are not available to me. My parents must drive me to work every day. If my parents could not drive me to work every day, I would not be able to keep my job.

Also, I cannot fully participate in UPS's employer sponsored 401(K) retirement plan like other employees. Although I am no longer receiving SSI income payments, I am still enrolled through the 1619(b) program so that I am eligible for Medicaid. That means that if I have over \$2,000 in assets I will lose my Medicaid benefits; and more importantly, if I have over \$17,500 in assets I will lose my Personal Care Attendant Benefits from the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services. If I lose my Personal Attendant I cannot work, or even get out of bed!

It is unfair that I work hard at UPS and I am eligible for a retirement plan, but the current policies do not allow me to save for my retirement like able-bodied workers. If I save for my retirement, I risk losing the benefit that allows me to live an independent, happy and healthy full life – my personal care attendants.

I encourage the HELP Committee to eliminate access barriers to transportation, housing and saving for our retirement, so that people with disabilities can live the American Dream.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today – it was an honor.