

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2017**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 729**

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Sponsors: Representatives Setzer, Hanes, Howard, and Henson (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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April 11, 2017

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL ABLE LEGISLATION.

2 Whereas, the Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 was  
3 enacted on December 19, 2014, as a part of the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014, P.L.  
4 113-295 and codified as Section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code (ABLE Act) to address the  
5 difficulties people with blindness or a qualifying disability may have in being able to afford the  
6 additional expenses incurred as a result of their blindness or disability; and

7 Whereas, the ABLE Act permits states to establish a new type of tax-advantaged  
8 savings program to assist people with blindness or qualifying disability in saving for  
9 disability-related expenses without jeopardizing their federal means-tested benefits; and

10 Whereas, the State of North Carolina enacted enabling legislation on August 14,  
11 2015, for the implement of a North Carolina ABLE program to be administered by the North  
12 Carolina Department of State Treasurer; and

13 Whereas, the following measures will serve to enhance and expand savings  
14 opportunities for individuals with disabilities and improve their overall quality of life; Now,  
15 therefore,

16 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

17 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly urges Congress to enact the following:

- 18 (1) Permit Rollovers from section 529 college savings accounts to section 529A  
19 ABLE savings accounts to allow parents to utilize funds previously set aside  
20 for a child's higher education for necessary qualified disability expenses.
- 21 (2) Allow ABLE beneficiaries to save additional amounts in their ABLE  
22 accounts when they work and earn income to encourage people with  
23 disabilities to enter the workforce without fear of exceeding the monthly  
24 resource limit for needed means-tested benefits.
- 25 (3) Increase the eligible requirement from age 26 to 46 so that individuals who  
26 become disabled later in life may also benefit from ABLE accounts.

27 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
28 resolution to each member of North Carolina's congressional delegation.

29 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.

