

# APSE EMPLOYMENT FIRST STATEMENT

Adapted by Green Mountain Self Advocates and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

**All people with disabilities should have opportunities to work. Public dollars should be used to pay for supports for people to work in the community.**

**People with disabilities, their families, and their allies believe that:**

 	<p>Too many people with disabilities do not have a job. This is unacceptable.</p>
	<p>All people should have opportunities for real jobs with real wages. It will get us out of poverty. We will be more independent. We will feel more included.</p> <p>All people, with and without disabilities, can work in jobs together earning minimum wage or higher.</p>
	<p>Like everyone else, people with disabilities should have access to supports that they need to work successfully.</p>
	<p>All people, no matter what disability they have, have the right to work a job they choose that matches their skills and interests.</p>
	<p>Public policies must support people with disabilities having real jobs. Money for services should be spent on people having jobs in the community.</p>
	<p>Just calling your state an Employment First state is not enough. "Employment First" is when everyone who wants a job, has a job.</p>

