



Jeffrey A. Koses and Robert T. Kelly, Jr., Elected to Lead U.S. AbilityOne Commission on Interim Basis

ARLINGTON, Va., Oct. 6, 2020 – At the quarterly meeting of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, Jeffrey A. Koses and Robert T. Kelly, Jr., were elected to the respective leadership positions of Interim Chairperson and Interim Vice Chairperson.

Koses is the General Services Administration (GSA) representative to the Commission. Kelly, a private citizen representing the interests of nonprofit agency employees with significant disabilities, has been serving as Vice Chairperson since 2018. The Commission’s 15 members are appointed by the President of the United States.

Koses and Kelly were elected on an interim basis because of the current business environment, including the COVID-19 national emergency. The Commission will assess how it will move forward, and hold another election in 2021.

The meeting was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I am honored to serve as the Interim Chairperson of the U.S. AbilityOne Commission and am delighted that Bob Kelly joins me as Interim Vice Chairperson,” Koses said. “I am committed to working with the other Commission members as we meet the challenges of the current moment while continuing to focus on growing employment for people who are blind or have significant disabilities.”

Koses is the Senior Procurement Executive for GSA. Recognized as an innovative leader in the field of acquisition, he serves as a voting member of the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council. From 2008 through 2014, he was Director of Acquisition Operations within the Federal Acquisition Service, where he led several Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiatives; created GSA’s premiere vehicle for integrated professional services, OASIS; managed 25 multiple award schedules with annual sales of over \$22 billion; supported emergency acquisition; and oversaw acquisition for GSA Global Supply. He previously directed GSA’s Office of Contract Management. He was appointed to the U.S. AbilityOne Commission by President Donald J. Trump in 2019.

Over the course of his career, Kelly has served on a number of disability-related boards and councils. He was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the U.S. Access Board, where he served two terms and worked on drafting rules for the Americans with Disabilities Act. He also



served one term on the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, which helps plan individual and family-centered supports for persons with disabilities in Florida. He retired in 2005 from BellSouth after a career spanning almost 30 years. In 2003, President George W. Bush appointed Kelly to one of four private-citizen positions on the Commission.

The Commission's outgoing Chairperson, Thomas D. Robinson, will remain on the Commission until he retires from the Air Force later this month.

About the AbilityOne Program

The AbilityOne Program is one of the largest sources of employment in the United States for people who are blind or have significant disabilities. Approximately 45,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities, including approximately 3,000 veterans, are employed at approximately 500 nonprofit agencies nationwide, across 15 time zones, from Maine to Guam. AbilityOne provided nearly \$4 billion in products and services to the Federal government in fiscal year 2019. The Program operates at more than 1,000 locations, representing 40 government agencies, including more than 150 Base Supply Centers at military and government installations.

About the U.S. AbilityOne Commission

The AbilityOne Program is administered by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, the operating name of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. The Commission is an independent Federal agency comprised of 15 Presidential appointees: 11 represent Federal agencies, and four serve as private citizens who are knowledgeable about employment barriers facing people who are blind or have significant disabilities. The Commission designates Central Nonprofit Agencies (CNAs) to facilitate the employment of people who are blind or have significant disabilities. CNA cooperative agreements with the Commission include performance work statements, quality assurance surveillance plan deliverables, and agreement clauses. The Commission currently executes the AbilityOne Program based on cooperative agreements with three CNAs: National Industries for the Blind, SourceAmerica and the American Foundation for the Blind. Commission-designated CNAs are private entities. (American Foundation for the Blind is currently in a research phase and is not collecting a Program Fee.)

