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ServiceSource Advocates for Full Spectrum of Employment Options for People with Disabilities on Capitol Hill

Alexandria, VA—ServiceSource President and CEO Janet Samuelson was one of eight panelists who participated in a roundtable discussion on The Future of Employment for People with the Most Significant Disabilities. The roundtable, moderated by United States Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), was organized by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in an effort to address the needs of workers and would-be workers with disabilities. Samuelson advocated for a full spectrum of opportunities for people with disabilities.

"People with the most significant disabilities have a broad continuum of support and employment needs," remarked Samuelson. "There is no holistic service delivery system that works for everyone."

Samuelson advocated against the removal of center-based employment as an option for people with the most significant disabilities, which would create a "service cliff" that would separate "haves" from "have-nots." This may create an environment in which, especially with constrained resources, persons with less significant disabilities who have a better chance of achieving competitive employment are served, leaving those with the most significant disabilities unserved or underserved. The committee was urged to look at access to technology, better transition services, creative incentives and supports for career movement, and regulatory changes to reflect the changed labor market and labor force requirements as the means to provide a full spectrum of opportunity.

"The focus should be on creating and developing new opportunities, not restricting opportunities people already have," stated Samuelson.

ServiceSource is a not-for-profit corporation with regional offices and programs located in nine states and the District of Columbia. ServiceSource's regional offices share a mission to provide exceptional services to individuals with disabilities through innovative and valued employment, training, habilitation, housing and support services. Collectively, ServiceSource programs serve more than 13,000 individuals with disabilities, with nearly 1,700 directly employed by the corporation.

For more information about ServiceSource and to view the webcast from the roundtable, please visit www.servicesource.org.



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Janet Samuelson, President and CEO of ServiceSource, meets with US Senator Tom Harkin prior to the roundtable discussion.