

## **JOINT INVESTOR STATEMENT ON CORPORATE DISABILITY INCLUSION**

As investors representing over \$1 trillion in assets under management, we believe companies must do more to include people with disabilities in the workforce. We want our portfolio companies to create sustainable, long-term value; this requires a workforce with a wide range of viewpoints, skills, abilities and experiences. We believe, and research has demonstrated, that embracing equality, diversity, and inclusiveness is increasingly critical to the long-term success of corporations in the global marketplace.

According to “Getting to Equal: The Disability Inclusion Advantage,” a 2018 report published by Accenture, Disability: IN, and the American Association of People with Disabilities, companies that embrace best practices for employing people with disabilities have outperformed their peers. This includes 28 percent higher revenue, double the net income, and 30 percent higher economic profit margins. Additionally, including people with disabilities increases innovation, improves productivity and fosters a better work environment.

In spite of these benefits, Accenture estimates that 10.7 million people with disabilities continue to be underrepresented in corporate America, representing the large underutilized talent pool. Disability inclusion is a significant opportunity for companies to improve their performance, enhance labor-force diversity, and develop a sustainable corporate culture.

As investors, we seek to encourage our portfolio companies to capitalize on the opportunities of disability inclusion. To start, companies should analyze their disability inclusion policies through a third-party benchmarking tool such as the Disability Equality Index (DEI). Tools like the DEI can provide companies a comprehensive assessment of their disability inclusion practices and identify opportunities to gain a competitive advantage by improving those practices.

We believe companies should adopt the following best practices:

- Ensure their Diversity & Inclusion statement specifically mentions people with disabilities and post the statement online;
- Establish a public, company-wide hiring goal for people with disabilities and measure progress on achieving that goal;
- Release a public statement from a senior executive (within first two layers of CEO), supporting a disability-focused employee resource group;
- Ensure the company’s disability accommodation policy is available to all employees and can be accessed in more than one way;
- Develop a supplier diversity program to include Disability-Owned Business Enterprises (DOBE®), Service-Disabled Veteran Disability-Owned Business Enterprises (SDV-DOBE™), and Veteran Disability-Owned Business Enterprises (V-DOBE™) and

- Audit the compliance of both internal and external websites under World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 (W3C WCAG2.1).

We recognize that corporate disability inclusion will not be achieved overnight. However, we believe the competitive advantages companies realize from such inclusion contribute to long-term sustainability. As such, we strongly encourage our portfolio companies to strive to adopt the best practices identified above.

Signed,

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