



**For immediate release**

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## **ACCSES heralds the Henry's Turkey Farm decision that sends a strong message against the abuse and exploitation of workers with disabilities**

**Washington, DC (May 2, 2013)** – [ACCSES](#), the voice of more than 1,200 disability service providers across the nation, commends yesterday's jury decision on behalf of 32 workers in the case of Henry's Turkey Farm. According to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), "the \$240 million [decision] – the largest verdict in the federal agency's history – for disability discrimination and severe abuse."

EEOC was able to prove, without a doubt, "that Henry's Turkey Farm exploited these workers... because their intellectual disabilities made them particularly vulnerable and unaware of the extent to which their legal rights were being denied." During the case, the EEOC presented evidence on the appalling living conditions, verbal abuse and physical harassment, and "failing to provide the workers adequate medical care when needed."

According to the EEOC's statement following the verdict, during the case, testimony was given by staff from Exceptional Persons Inc. of Waterloo, Iowa, a disability service provider. The testimony focused on their "in-depth personal perspectives with regard to the victims and the nature of the abuses suffered."

"Yesterday's jury decision was a great victory for people with significant disabilities and for workers rights," said ACCSES CEO Terry R. Farmer. "Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ensures that people with the most significant disabilities are still able to enjoy the tangible and intangible benefits of work, while also receiving a full range of employment supports and coaching on the job. When organizations like Henry's Turkey Farm abuse this program it threatens the existence of the entire program which provides employment to hundreds of thousands of people with significant disabilities across the country."

ACCSES supports the EEOC's vigorous enforcement of laws prohibiting disability employment discrimination. Also, ACCSES applauds the President's fiscal year 2014 increase in the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage & Hour Division enforcement budget to ensure that organizations

like Henry's Turkey Farm cease to exist and that critical worker protection legislation for people with significant disabilities is rigorously enforced.

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[ACCSES](#) represents more than 1,200 disability service providers across the country. ACCSES works to promote and enhance community-based solutions that maximize person-centered employment, health care, education, and independent living opportunities for people with disabilities. Through collaboration with government and other stakeholders, ACCSES assures that services recognize and support the full potential of each person with a disability.