# National ABLE Alliance

### Q1 2021 Quarterly Investment Review May 3, 2021

Presented by: **Thomas Lowe, CFA** Vice President | Investment Management

#### Paul Souppa, ChFC

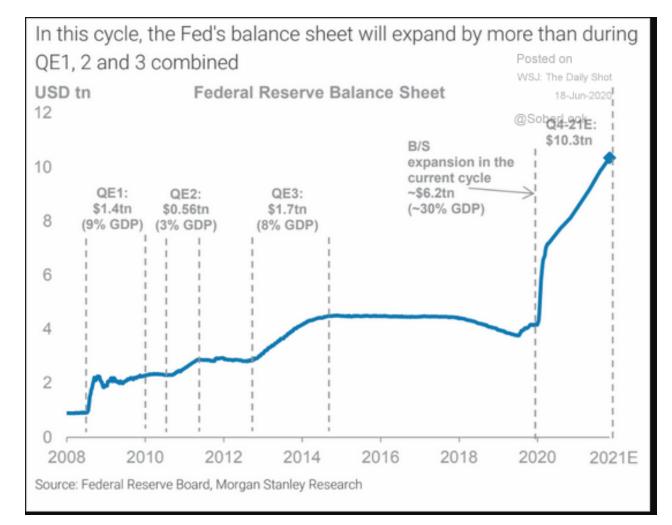
Sr Investment Analyst| Investment Management

For Institutional Investor Use Only – Prepared at the request of the National ABLE Alliance

# **Market Review**

### **Federal Reserve Bank stimulus**

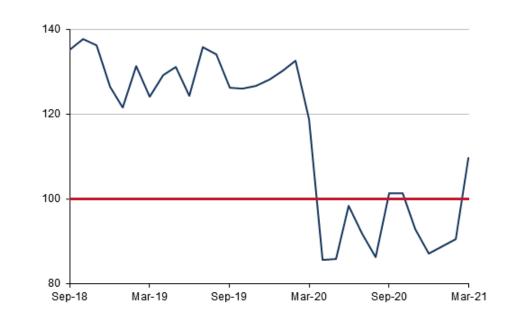
#### Economy and market being bolstered by liquidity in market



For Institutional Investor Use Only – Prepared at the request of the National ABLE Alliance Oversight Committee

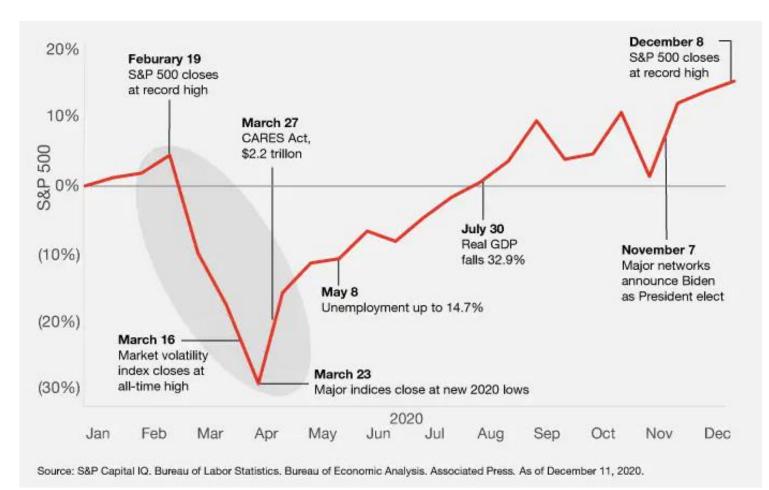
### **U.S. Consumer Confidence**

#### United States Consumer Confidence Chart



Note: Consumer Confidence Index. Source: The Conference Board.

#### **2020 Market Returns**



#### S&P 500 up 18.4% in 2020 during a volatile year

### **U.S. Equity Returns**

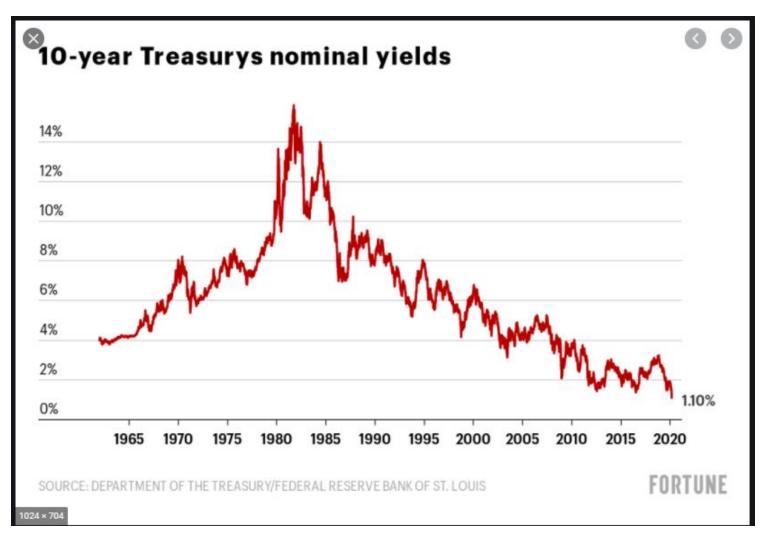
	2019	2020		Ма	arch 31, 20	21	
Name			Q1	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
S&P 500	31.49	18.40	6.17	56.35	16.78	16.29	13.91
NASDAQ Index	36.69	44.92	2.95	73.40	24.54	23.44	18.22
Large Growth	36.39	38.49	0.94	62.74	22.80	21.05	16.63
Large (All)	31.43	20.96	5.91	60.59	17.31	16.66	13.97
Large Value	26.54	2.80	11.26	56.09	10.96	11.74	10.99
Small Growth	28.48	34.63	4.88	90.20	17.16	18.61	13.02
Small (All)	25.52	19.96	12.70	94.85	14.76	16.35	11.68
Small Value	22.39	4.63	21.17	97.05	11.57	13.56	10.06

- Primary drivers of 2020 performance were software, internet retail, semiconductors and commodities driven by stay at home orders and the associated uptick in technology use.
  - 2020 losers were energy, financial institutions, real estate, aerospace.
- Significant turnaround in Q1,2021 when financials, industrials, real estate led as tech took a breather and market started to sense opening up
- These tend to even out over time and this impacts our fund construction

	2019	2020	March 31, 2021
			Q1 1 Year 3 Year 5 Year 10 Year
Developed Markets	22.66	8.28	3.60 <b>45.15</b> 6.54 <b>9.37</b> 6.02
Emerging Markets	18.90	18.69	2.34 58.92 6.87 12.48 4.02
United Kingdom China	23.10 23.66	-8.49 29.67	6.5239.431.824.974.05-0.4343.818.4116.297.49

- International returns were led by emerging markets
  - Emerging markets led by China and other Eastern Asia countries new economy, resilience to crisis
  - Emerging markets exhibit more volatility, but appropriate in the aggressive models for investors with longer time horizons
- Developed markets hurt by UK returns during 2020
  - Reversal during Q1

#### **U.S. Interest Rate History**



### **Fixed Income Returns**

	2019	2020		Ma	rch 31, 2	021	
			Q1	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Total U.S. Bond Market	8.87	7.75	-3.56	0.72		-	-
Short - Term U.S. Bond Market	5.01	4.71	-0.57	1.90	3.66	2.33	2.10
U.S. Inflation-Protected Bonds	4.85	5.07	1.07	6.92	3.78	2.67	1.69
Global Bonds	8.31	4.70	-2.14	1.85	4.25	3.60	4.56

- Strong fixed income returns have been driven by declines in interest rates
  - Bond value increase when rates go down
- During Q1, rates rose and turned most bond returns negative
- At historically low interest rates, we are positioned with shorter duration which isn't hurt as much by higher rates

## **Investment Philosophy**

- Provide broadly diversified, low cost, static investment portfolios that balance potential capital growth with appropriate risk levels
- Provide enough portfolios that account owners have options but are not overwhelmed by choices
  - Static versus roll down; account owners have less definite time horizons
  - More aggressive options include more equity
    - Generally provide more return over time with more volatility for account owners with longer horizons and tolerance for risk
- Use passively managed products for lower price points and to ensure complete diversification
  - Passive products have full market exposure at all times
  - Account owners generally don't have the benefit of an advisor to monitor active products

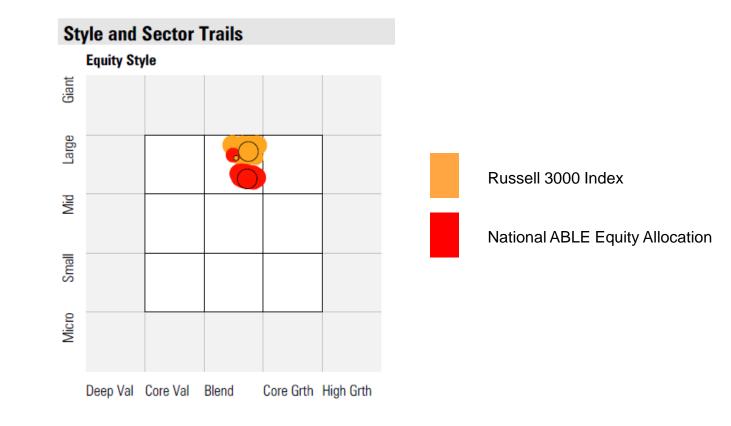
## **AIA Portfolio Construction**

- Portfolios generally reflect the overall market for diversification(with exceptions)
  - Use underlying indexes that do not make style bets Value or Growth
  - Do not incorporate short/medium term market opinions in portfolios
  - Portfolios incorporate some broad based biases
- Examples of longer term view points expressed in portfolios
  - Slight bias towards U.S. equities
  - Longer term views do include a bias towards shorter-duration to protect against interest rate increases
  - Above market weight in real estate adds stability to portfolio

## AIA Examples of Portfolio Construction Decisions

Equity Style Analysis

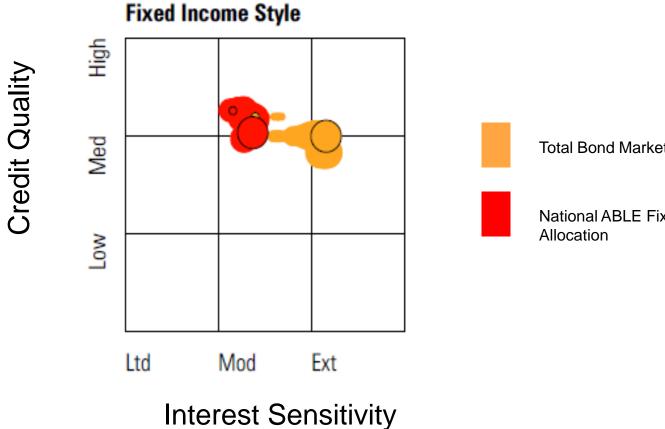
Market Capitalization



**Investment Style** 

## **AIA Examples of Portfolio Construction Decisions**

Fixed Income Style Anaylsis ٠



**Total Bond Market Index** 

National ABLE Fixed Income

## AIA Investment Monitoring and Reporting

- Annual fee analysis to ensure lowest price products being offered to investor
  - ABLE plan has access to lower priced Vanguard products due to overall AIA usage of Vanguard products
- Benchmark study to assess appropriateness of products
  - Optimization work to validate allocations
  - In 2020, real estate product changed benchmark
- Monitoring & Due Diligence
  - Monthly monitoring utilizing a Stop Light methodology
  - Quarterly Ascensus Investment Committee meetings
  - Due Diligence meetings with investment managers
  - On-Going Due Diligence Questionnaire completed by Ascensus Compliance team
  - Comprehensive Investment Reviews

# Quarterly Investment Review Plan Review

## **National ABLE Alliance – Plan Review** As of March 31, 2021

Past Performance is not indicative of future results

Total Market Value

	1	.10	,678	169	\$	e:
--	---	-----	------	-----	----	----

<u>Fund Name</u> Aggressive Option ABLE Aggressive Custom Benchmark <b>Variance</b>	<u>Market Value</u> \$ 23,182,668	<u>% of Plan</u> 13.66%	<u>1 Month</u> 2.04 1.97 <b>0.07</b>	<u>3 Months</u> 5.56 5.45 <b>0.11</b>	<u>YTD</u> 5.56 5.45 <b>0.11</b>	<u>1 Year</u> 55.21 56.59 <b>(1.38)</b>	<u>3 Year</u> 12.37 12.96 <b>(0.59)</b>	<u>5 Year</u>	<u> 10 Year</u>	<u>Inception</u> 12.42 13.04 <b>(0.62)</b>	Inception Date 12/15/16
Moderately Aggressive Option ABLE Moderately Aggressive Custom Benchmark <b>Variance</b>	\$ 20,014,489	11.80%	1.62 1.61 <b>0.01</b>	4.40 4.37 <b>0.03</b>	4.40 4.37 <b>0.03</b>	45.04 46.68 <b>(1.64)</b>	11.14 11.85 <b>(0.71)</b>			11.00 11.67 <b>(0.67)</b>	12/15/16
Growth Option ABLE Growth Custom Benchmark <b>Variance</b>	\$ 24,658,347	14.53%	1.23 1.25 <b>(0.02)</b>	3.29 3.29 <b>(0.00)</b>	3.29 3.29 <b>(0.00)</b>	35.54 37.21 <b>(1.67)</b>	9.83 10.58 <b>(0.75)</b>			9.49 10.20 <b>(0.71)</b>	12/15/16
Moderate Option ABLE Moderate Custom Benchmark <b>Variance</b>	\$ 18,609,278	10.97%	0.87 0.88 <b>(0.01)</b>	2.20 2.22 <b>(0.02)</b>	2.20 2.22 <b>(0.02)</b>	26.80 28.17 <b>(1.37)</b>	8.43 9.17 <b>(0.74)</b>			7.99 8.64 <b>(0.65)</b>	12/15/16
Moderately Conservative Option ABLE Moderately Conservative Custom Benchmark <b>Variance</b>	\$ 14,059,928	8.29%	0.55 0.57 <b>(0.02)</b>	1.43 1.40 <b>0.03</b>	1.43 1.40 <b>0.03</b>	17.88 18.61 <b>(0.73)</b>	6.33 6.93 <b>(0.60)</b>			5.90 6.43 <b>(0.53)</b>	12/15/16
Conservative Option ABLE Conservative Custom Benchmark <b>Variance</b>	\$ 23,654,109	13.94%	0.18 0.15 <b>0.03</b>	0.35 0.32 <b>0.03</b>	0.35 0.32 <b>0.03</b>	6.45 6.57 <b>(0.12)</b>	3.38 3.71 <b>(0.33)</b>			3.06 3.34 <b>(0.28)</b>	12/15/16

**Checking Option** 

\$ 45,499,282 26.82%

03/30/17

For Institutional Investor Use Only -Prepared at the request of the National ABLE Alliance Oversight

Committee

# Underlying Investment Product Review

## Underlying Product Investment Review As of March 31, 2021

Underlying Fund Name	Underlying Fund Expense	Total Ret 3 Mo	Total Ret YTD	Total Ret 1 Yr	Total Ret Annizd 3 Yr	Total Ret Annizd 5 Yr	Total Ret Annizd 10 Yr
Vanguard Institutional Index Fund - Institutional Plus	0.02%	6.18%	6.18%	56.37%	16.78%	16.29%	13.91%
S&P 500 TR USD		6.17%	6.17%	56.35%	16.78%	16.29%	13.91%
Performance Variance		0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Vanguard Extended Market Index Fund - Instl Plus Shares	0.04%	7.79%	7.79%	97.96%	18.22%	18.03%	13.18%
S&P Completion TR USD		7.75%	7.75%	97.84%	18.06%	17.89%	13.04%
Performance Variance		0.04%	0.04%	0.12%	0.16%	0.14%	0.14%
iShares Core MSCI EAFE ETF	0.07%	3.72%	3.72%	47.19%	6.31%	9.30%	
MSCI EAFE IMI NR USD		3.63%	3.63%	46.95%	6.06%	9.09%	
Performance Variance		0.09%	0.09%	0.24%	0.25%	0.21%	
Schwab Emerging Markets Equity ETF	0.11%	2.64%	2.64%	55.44%	6.49%	11.49%	3.41%
FTSE Emerging NR USD		2.79%	2.79%	56.16%	6.68%	11.65%	3.59%
Performance Variance		-0.15%	-0.15%	-0.72%	-0.19%	-0.16%	-0.18%
Schwab U.S. REIT ETF	0.07%	8.34%	8.34%	28.88%	5.47%	2.67%	7.17%
Schwab Spliced REIT Index		8.35%	8.35%	28.94%	5.49%	2.73%	7.26%
Performance Variance		-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.06%	-0.02%	-0.06%	-0.09%

Past Performance is not indicative of future results

For Institutional Investor Use Only – Prepared at the request of the National ABLE Alliance Oversight Committee

## Underlying Product Investment Review As of March 31, 2021

Underlying Fund Name	Underlying Fund Expense	Total Ret 3 Mo	Total Ret YTD		Total Ret Annizd 3 Yr	Total Ret Annizd 5 Yr	Total Ret Annizd 10 Yr
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund - Institutional							
Plus Shares	0.03%	-3.61%	-3.61%	0.56%	4.65%	3.09%	3.41%
Vanguard Spliced BBgBarc US Aggregate Index		-3.56%	-3.56%	0.72%	4.69%	3.14%	3.47%
Performance Variance		-0.05%	-0.05%	-0.16%	-0.04%	-0.05%	-0.06%
Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index Fund - Institutional Plus							
Shares	0.04%	-0.59%	-0.59%	1.82%	3.62%	2.28%	2.05%
Vanguard Spliced BBgBarc US 1-5 Yr Index		-0.57%	-0.57%	1.90%	3.66%	2.33%	2.10%
Performance Variance		-0.02%	-0.02%	-0.08%	-0.04%	-0.05%	-0.05%
Vanguard Short-Term Inflation-Protected Securities Index							
Fund - Instl Shares	0.04%	1.08%	1.08%	6.86%	3.75%	2.63%	
BBgBarc US TIPS 0-5 Year TR USD		1.07%	1.07%	6.92%	3.78%	2.67%	
Performance Variance		0.01%	0.01%	-0.06%	-0.03%	-0.04%	
iShares <sup>®</sup> Core International Aggregate Bond ETF	0.08%	-2.21%	-2.21%	1.73%	4.08%	3.45%	
BBgBarc Gbl Agg xUSD 10% IC TR Hdg USD		-2.14%	-2.14%	1.85%	4.25%	3.60%	
Performance Variance		-0.07%	-0.07%	-0.12%	-0.17%	-0.15%	

Past Performance is not indicative of future results

For Institutional Investor Use Only – Prepared at the request of the National ABLE Alliance Oversight Committee

## **Asset Allocation Review - Current Target Allocations**

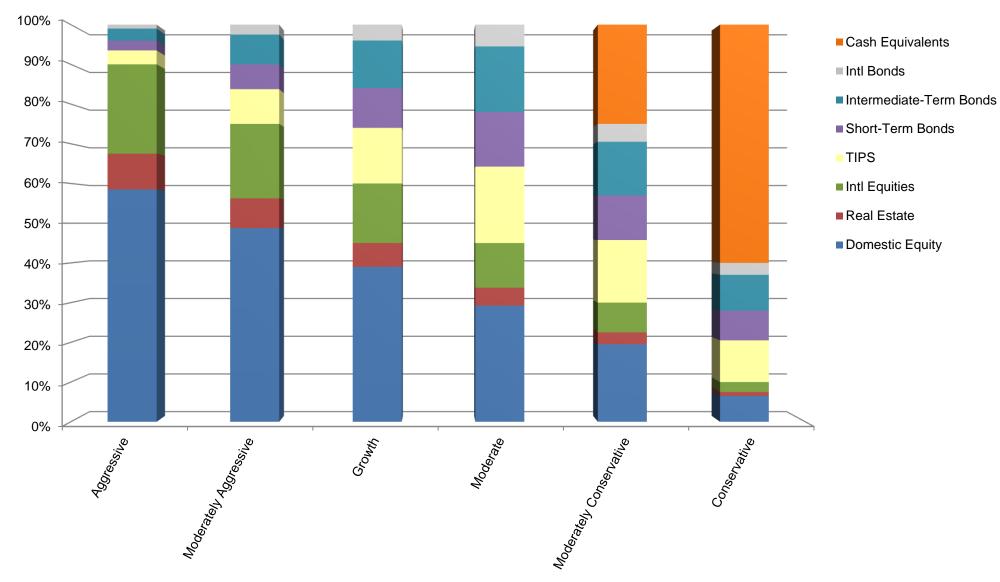
					National	ABLE Alliance	Target Asset /	Allocation	
Asset Class	Underlying Investment	Ticker	Underlying Expense	Aggressive	Moderately Aggressive	Growth	Moderate	Moderately Conservative	
U.S. Large Cap	Vanguard Institutional Index Fund - Institutional Plus	VIIIX	0.02%	31.50%	26.25%	21.00%	15.75%	10.50%	3.50%
U.S. Small & Mid Cap	Vanguard Extended Market Index Fund - Instl Plus Shares	VEMPX	0.04%	27.00%	22.50%	18.00%	13.50%	9.00%	3.00%
Non - U.S. Multi Cap	iShares Core MSCI EAFE ETF	IEFA	0.07%	16.20%	13.50%	10.80%	8.10%	5.40%	1.80%
Emerging Markets	Schwab Emerging Markets Equity ETF	SCHE	0.11%	6.30%	5.25%	4.20%	3.15%	2.10%	0.70%
REITs	Schwab U.S. REIT ETF	SCHH	0.07%	9.00%	7.50%	6.00%	4.50%	3.00%	1.00%
U.S. Core Bond	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund - Institutional Plus Shares	VBMPX	0.03%	3.00%	7.50%	12.00%	16.50%	13.50%	9.00%
Short - Term Inv Grade	Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index Fund - Institutional Plus Shares	VBIPX	0.04%	2.50%	6.25%	10.00%	13.75%	11.25%	7.50%
Short - Term TIPS	Vanguard Short-Term Inflation-Protected Securities Index Fund - Instl	VTSPX	0.04%	3.50%	8.75%	14.00%	19.25%	15.75%	10.50%
International Bond	iShares <sup>®</sup> Core International Aggregate Bond ETF	IAGG	0.08%	1.00%	2.50%	4.00%	5.50%	4.50%	3.00%
Cash	Sallie Mae High Yield FDIC		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	60.00%
Equity Allocation				90.00%	75.00%	60.00%	45.00%	30.00%	10.00%
Fixed Income Allocation				10.00%	25.00%	40.00%	55.00%	45.00%	30.00%
Cash Equivalent Allocation				0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	60.00%
Total Allocation				100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Underlying Expense				0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%

For Institutional Investor Use Only –

Prepared at the request of the National ABLE Alliance Oversight

Committee

### National ABLE Alliance – Asset Allocation of Risk Based Portfolios



## **Portfolio Benchmark Allocation Review**

#### **ABLE Consortium Custom Benchmarks**

	Aggressive Custom Benchmark	Moderately Aggressive Custom Benchmark	Growth Custom Benchmark	Moderate Custom Benchmark	Moderately Conservative Custom Benchmark	Conservative Custom Benchmark
S&P 500 TR USD	31.50%	26.25%	21.00%	15.75%	10.50%	3.50%
S&P Completion TR USD	27.00%	22.50%	18.00%	13.50%	9.00%	3.00%
MSCI EAFE IMI NR USD	16.20%	13.50%	10.80%	8.10%	5.40%	1.80%
FTSE Emerging NR USD	6.30%	5.25%	4.20%	3.15%	2.10%	0.70%
Schwab Spliced REIT Index	9.00%	7.50%	6.00%	4.50%	3.00%	1.00%
Vanguard Spliced BBgBarc US Aggregate Index	3.00%	7.50%	12.00%	16.50%	13.50%	9.00%
Vanguard Spliced BBgBarc US 1-5 Yr Index	2.50%	6.25%	10.00%	13.75%	11.25%	7.50%
BBgBarc U.S. Treasury TIPS 0-5Y TR USD	3.50%	8.75%	14.00%	19.25%	15.75%	10.50%
BBgBarc Gbl Agg xUSD 10% IC TR Hdg USD	1.00%	2.50%	4.00%	5.50%	4.50%	3.00%
BBgBarc US Treasury Bill 1-3 Mon TR USD	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	60.00%

100.00% 100.00% 100.00% 100.00% 100.00%

100.00%



### **Questions?**

# National ABLE Alliance

For Institutional Investor Use Only Prepared at the request of the National ABLE Alliance Oversight Committee