

**Statement of NCLD Executive Director James H. Wendorf
on the Introduction of
the Workforce Investment Act of 2012**

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(Washington, D.C.) Today, the Executive Director of the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD), James H. Wendorf, made the following statement regarding the introduction of the Workforce Investment Act of 2012 by U.S. Representatives John Tierney, George Miller, and Ruben Hinojosa. The bill would reauthorize and make improvements to the existing Workforce Investment Act, the law directing Federal job training programs for American workers. NCLD worked with these Representatives to include key provisions to improve job training services for individuals with learning disabilities (LD).

"The Workforce Investment Act of 2012 includes several critical improvements to the services which individuals with learning disabilities would receive under our nation's job training programs. Under this bill, local workforce boards would be required to reach beyond physical access for individuals with disabilities to job training services, and ensure that local one-stop centers coordinate their services with the transition services which students with disabilities receive as they leave high school and enter the workforce. In addition, local boards would have to ensure that the literacy challenges of eligible trainees, including those with LD who have dyslexia and other reading disabilities, are not a barrier to receiving job training services.

As we work to strengthen the contributions of all our nation's citizens, including individuals with LD, effective job training is essential. These changes are important additions and complement the recent announcement by the Obama administration to better focus on academic and transition outcomes for students with disabilities in their monitoring work under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Most importantly, the bill's provisions will lead to better and more effective services for individuals with learning disabilities as they seek to upgrade and maintain the skills they need to obtain and retain employment."

More information about NCLD can be found at www.LD.org.

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