



March 6, 2013

U.S. Representative John Kline
Chairman
House Education & Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Representative George Miller
Ranking Member
House Education & Workforce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen:

As national partners of the Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination, we would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the *Workforce Investment Act of 2013* (H.R. 798). The Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD) focuses on innovative public policy reform that promotes the effective transition of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities into adulthood by preparing them to obtain optimal outcomes in the areas of employment, economic advancement, and independent living.

CPSD applauds bill language regarding an increased focus and use of vocational rehab dollars on youth with significant disabilities in transition. In particular, we were pleased to see the following proposals:

- Direct emphasis on the preferred outcomes of competitive integrated employment and post-secondary education for all youth, including youth with significant disabilities;
- Establishment of competitive integrated employment as the goal for vocational rehabilitation services;
- Expansion of supported employment and customized employment for individuals with disabilities;
- Requirement that states provide pre-employment transition service coordination.

We appreciate Congress's commitment to move forward this important reauthorization legislation in the 113th Congress, and we are equally committed to this goal. We are also committed to working with you in good faith so that we can aggressively advocating for a reauthorization package of which we can all be proud.

Citizens with significant disabilities deserve more in the way of opportunities to live productive, economically self-sufficient, fulfilling lives in fully integrated community settings. We as a country can do better to help support this vision. The next generation deserves this focused and strong approach and desire a system of supports that promote the highest expectations of all individuals, regardless of impact of disability.

Sincerely,

cc: Members of the House Committee on Education & Workforce