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Dear Congressman Miller,

*The National Council on Independent Living would like to express our full support for the introduction of the Workforce Investment Act of 2013. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA), along with the included Rehabilitation Act of 1973 has not been reauthorized in over a decade, and we sincerely support the introduction of this bill and efforts underway to reauthorize this legislation. We are especially excited that this bill contains provisions creating a new Independent Living Administration, an idea that we know will increase opportunity and independence for millions of Americans with disabilities.*

NCIL is America's oldest cross-disability, grassroots organization run by and for people with disabilities. Founded in 1982, NCIL represents over 700 organizations and individuals representing every state including: Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), individuals with disabilities, and other organizations that advocate for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the United States.

CILs and SILCs are particularly dependent on the reauthorization of WIA and the Rehabilitation Act because this legislation governs how they operate, and how efficiently our nation's Independent Living Program is able to provide services. Updating WIA's provisions with the inclusion of an Independent Living Administration will mean a historic investment in Americans with disabilities, not in terms of dollars, rather the structure needed to ensure that people with disabilities can live more independently and better contribute to the greatness of our nation.

NCIL understands how much work it takes to reauthorize WIA, as we have been working hard for years to gain the support of both parties in the House and Senate to address the outdated workforce investment system in the United States. This system critically needs an update because without reauthorization, we are seeing an increasing number of individuals being harmed by the system rather than helped. At this moment when employment and the economy are of such importance to so many Americans, we cannot afford to wait another day to reauthorize WIA. NCIL stands ready as an enthusiastic partner to get this legislation reauthorized, and puts the full weight of our organization behind the Workforce Investment Act of 2013.

Sincerely,



Kelly Buckland  
Executive Director