

February 6, 2008

Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Ruben Hinojosa  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Higher Education,  
Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Miller and Chairman Hinojosa:

The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) is pleased with the current version of HR 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007. NCLD is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1977 that seeks to increase opportunities for children, adolescents and adults with learning disabilities (LD). We work with a national network of parents, teachers and individuals with LD. Our longstanding commitment to children and adults with LD is based on the guiding principle that federal policies should reflect what research tells us – the research tells us that students with LD can and will succeed in their higher education pursuits if given the right supports and opportunities along the way.

NCLD is pleased to see several significant provisions were added to HR 4137 that enhance access to higher education for students with disabilities and increase the quality of the education they will receive. We applaud the data-driven provisions you have included in the bill that respond to the needs of students with disabilities to ensure they have every opportunity to make a successful transition into the adult phase of their lives.

We would like to note our support for the following provisions in HR 4137:

- National Center for Information & Technical support to improve the post-secondary recruitment, retention and completion rates of students with disabilities
- An advisory committee on accessible instructional materials in post-secondary education for students with disabilities
- Model demonstration programs to improve access to post-secondary instructional materials for students with print disabilities
- National study on higher education access success
- Programs to ensure students with disabilities receive a quality higher education
- Definition of Universal Design for Learning

By expanding academic opportunities for students and ensuring technical assistance, training and support exists for the institutions and professionals who serve them, you are paving the way for a successful outcome for thousands of young adults.

Sincerely,



James H. Wendorf  
Executive Director

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES, INC.**

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