



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Feb. 4, 2008

Honorable John Yarmuth
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Representative Yarmuth:

On behalf of the Education Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, we are pleased to support your amendment to HR 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, which will create a new program to support the preparation of general educators who are skilled in working with students with disabilities.

Students with disabilities are increasingly taught in general education classrooms. In fact, recent data indicate that 80% of students with disabilities are in general education classrooms 40% of the time. Because of the success in integrating students with disabilities into the mainstream, it is critical that the general education teachers who work with them are skilled in unique strategies designed to meet their needs. Ensuring that general education teachers are skilled in research based strategies such as Response to Intervention and positive behavioral supports will significantly increase their success with students with disabilities.

The CCD Task Force on Education is made up of almost 60 national organizations concerned about the education of students with disabilities and the participation of parents in the educational process. The Task Force is comprised of organizations that represent educators, related services professionals, direct service providers, advocates and parents.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of students with disabilities.

Sincerely,

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