



Bobby Jindal  
Governor

# State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
DISABILITY AFFAIRS

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

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March 31, 2010

Ms. Kristy H. Nichols, Secretary  
Department of Social Services  
627 North Fourth Street, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
P.O. Box 3776  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Secretary Nichols,

As an advocate of independent living for individuals with disabilities, I have a personal stake in the outcome of proposed House Bill 1198. I support this legislation. The Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council, as well as our centers for independent living across the state will be directly impacted by this bill if enacted. Funding for our Council and the centers is directed through Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. Representative Katz's bill will relocate our designated state agency, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services, to the Louisiana Workforce Commission and part of our services to the Department of Health and Hospitals. Independent living services will benefit from the streamlining, and we look forward to the collaborative partnership between Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Sincerely,

Wayne Blackwell, Chairman  
Statewide Independent Living Council

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