



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 27, 2011

Ms. Lila Klausman  
Melbourne Beach, Florida

Dear Lila:

Thank you for writing. I have heard from many Americans about issues concerning people with disabilities, including learning disabilities. We must ensure all Americans have equal access to opportunities and can live independently without discrimination.

Our lifelong commitment to Americans with disabilities and their families begins with support early in life. It continues by building on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—a crucial law that must be properly funded and enforced—and by ensuring fair access to employment. The Federal Government will lead by example by implementing policies that increase opportunities for all workers.

My Administration has already begun to fulfill this commitment. We proudly signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to advance the rights of people with disabilities worldwide. To provide the necessary resources here at home, I signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which gives States an additional \$12 billion for the education of children with disabilities and more than \$500 million for vocational rehabilitation programs. The Recovery Act also provides an additional \$140 million to support independent living centers. I launched the "Year of Community Living" to bring agencies together to improve access to housing, community support, and independent living arrangements. In addition, I have asked Federal agencies to develop new plans to increase employment of people with disabilities.

As we seek to level the playing field for Americans with disabilities, we must also reshape attitudes and eliminate stereotypes. This begins with strengthening enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act, increasing enforcement by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and providing for parity in insurance coverage for mental health. For more information, visit [www.WhiteHouse.gov/agenda/disabilities](http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/agenda/disabilities) and [www.Disability.gov](http://www.Disability.gov) or call 1-800-FED-INFO.

Together, we can meet the goal of providing the best possible support, empowerment, and opportunities for all Americans. Thank you, again, for writing.

Sincerely,