



**For Immediate Release**  
November 15, 2017

**Statement from Mimi Corcoran, NCLD President and CEO  
on the Nomination of Johnny Collett as Assistant Secretary of the  
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services**

Washington, DC – The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) is pleased to support the nomination of Johnny Collett as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education's (USED) Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). NCLD urges the Senate to move forward with the confirmation process and fill this critical role.

Parents must be informed and empowered partners in their child's education, and USED plays a critical role in supporting them. NCLD has worked for years with USED to ensure parents and students receive the help and guidance they need to succeed. We are heartened that throughout his career in education, Collett has worked with students with disabilities and their families, beginning in the classroom as a special education teacher and eventually leading the state of Kentucky as State Special Education Director. NCLD looks forward to working with the USED and Collett to improve student outcomes, maintain high expectations, and provide appropriate supports and resources for students with disabilities. His knowledge of and dedication to the needs of students and families will be a valuable asset to USED.

In light of the issues and concerns facing our community today, all stakeholders' voices and viewpoints must be heard, included, and respected. We will not always agree, but it is our hope that Collett will work closely with families and the disability community to form strong partnerships and ensure all stakeholders are well informed and a meaningful part of the process.

NCLD stands ready to work collaboratively with Collett to make sure the needs of students with disabilities and their families are met, and that all students learn, grow and thrive.

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**About the National Center for Learning Disabilities**

The mission of NCLD is to improve the lives of the 1 in 5 children and adults nationwide with learning and attention issues—by empowering parents and young adults, transforming schools and advocating for equal rights and opportunities. We're working to create a society in which every individual possesses the academic, social and emotional skills needed to succeed in school, at work and in life.