**“State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program; State Supporter Employment Services Program; Limitations on Use of Subminimum Wage; Final Rule” has negatively impacted Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind’s ability to receive referrals  from two jurisdictions in the state of Maryland and Virginia of individuals who are blind to attend job-readiness training,  fill good-paying, quality employment opportunities on our government contracts. As a result, we have provided workforce investment services to a very few, almost none in 2017. Clients are told that they will not receive support from the state agencies if they work with NIB agencies for jobs. Therefore, they are forced to take menial jobs making minimum wage vs obtaining employment at CLB making a minimum of $15.63 - our average salary is** $22.24 per hour**.**

**This decision has profound impact on those clients as well as CLB’s operations within employment services and government contracts.**