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**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES  
NAMES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

(January 5, 2008 – Washington, DC)

The United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD) announces the hiring of David Morrissey as its new Executive Director. Morrissey is scheduled to take over the position on January 12, 2009.

Morrissey joins USICD with management experience in several nonprofit organizations, including most recently, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, where was also the 2007 Disability Policy Leadership Fellow.

“We are delighted that David is joining USICD at this historic juncture. His years of experience in the non-profit sector and his commitment to social justice and human rights will position USICD to advance our global agenda on behalf of people with disabilities,” says USICD Board President Marca Bristo.

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Morrissey was a member of the inaugural class of the Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas where he earned his Master of Public Service degree in 2006. During this program he conducted fieldwork in Vietnam working with grassroots disabilities organizations and conducting a survey of the experiences of persons with disabilities in that country. He has also presented on the transition to adulthood for youth with spina bifida both nationally and internationally and has advocated in the area of emergency management and people with disabilities.

USICD is a federation of US-based non-governmental organizations, federal agencies and individuals committed to advocacy and action on behalf of the global disability rights agenda. Members include numerous organizations, such as the American Association of People with Disabilities, the National Council on Independent Living, the National Disability Rights Network, and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, among others. The USICD Board includes many of the most recognized leaders in the US disability movement, with extensive political connections and an impressive track record of influencing disability rights legislation and public policy.

Over the past decade, USICD has become a key convener of the American disability community on US-based advocacy and policy initiatives on a range of international disability issues. USICD was a key advocate in the United States during the recent United Nations (UN) process of drafting a new global human rights treaty, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and continues to advocate for its ratification by the United States.

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