



February 22, 2008

Ms. Amy A. Hobby
BLS Clearance Officer
Division of Management Systems
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Room 4080
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington DC 20212

Dear Ms. Hobby:

On behalf of the Disability Policy Collaboration, a partnership of The Arc of the United States and United Cerebral Palsy, I write in strong support of adding the disability questions to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The Arc of the United States and United Cerebral Palsy, have each advocated over a half century for better national, state and local data about people with disabilities, particularly data regarding employment rates. It is regrettable that the nation's principal source of official Government statistics on employment and unemployment has not included any questions about disability in its 60 year history and we are very pleased to see this deficiency corrected.

The Arc of the United States is the largest national organization of and for people with cognitive, intellectual, and related developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc, along with its more than 850 state and local chapters, is devoted to promoting and improving supports, services and economic independence for people with cognitive, intellectual, and related developmental disabilities and their families.

For more than 55 years, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) has been committed to change and progress for persons with disabilities. The national organization and its nationwide network of affiliates strive to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in every facet of society—from the Web to the workplace, from the classroom to the community.

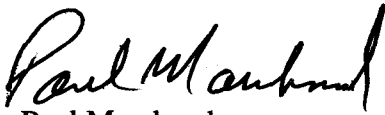
The Arc of the United States and United Cerebral Palsy each have a long history of advocacy in support of improving work opportunities for people with significant disabilities. We recognize that better data will help us assess public policies regarding employment for people with disabilities. The importance of this data driven approach to policy making was highlighted in Executive Order 13078 which included the following directive:

(The) Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor and the Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the Department of Education and Health and Human Services, the National Council on Disability and the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities shall design and implement a statistically reliable and accurate methods to measure the employment rate of adults with disabilities as soon as possible but no later than the date of termination of the Task Force.

The Executive Order was signed in 1998. Including the disability questions in the CPS will go a long way toward finally meeting this directive.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on behalf of The Arc of the United States and United Cerebral Palsy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 783-2229.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Marchand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being more prominent than the last name "Marchand".

Paul Marchand
Staff Director