



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

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 Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Employment and Training Task Force, we write in strong support of adding the disability questions to the Current Population Survey (CPS). CCD has advocated for many years 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.

CCD is a coalition of approximately 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. Data concerning people with disabilities is a critical and essential component desperately needed by both the policy making and program development sectors to help see this vision come to fruition. The data resulting from these questions will enable significant advances in responding to challenges surrounding employment for people with disabilities.

Policy makers, advocates, researchers and others will use the data to better assess public policies regarding employment for people with disabilities and to lay the groundwork for policies that promote improved employment outcomes for this segment of our citizenry. 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 CCD membership. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the co-chairs of the Employment and Training Task Force listed below.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Bates-Harris, National Disability Rights Network

Susan Prokop, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Celane McWhorter, APSE: The Network on Employment

Charles Harles, Inter-National Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation

Brad Turner-Little, Easter Seals, Inc.