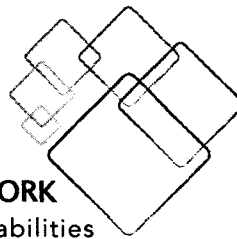


**NATIONAL
DISABILITY RIGHTS**

NETWORK

Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities



February 25, 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:

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is pleased to write in strong support of adding the disability questions to the Current Population Survey (CPS). NDRN has strongly advocated 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 very pleased to see this deficiency corrected.

The National Disability Rights Network is the nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems and Client Assistance Programs (CAP) for individuals with disabilities. Collectively, the P&A/CAP network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States. NDRN is working to strengthen the collaboration of state and federal programs involving the employment of individuals with disabilities in order to reduce the prevalence of people with disabilities who are unemployed or underemployed.

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

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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.

NDRN appreciates the opportunity to provide this comment. Please contact Cheryl Bates-Harris at 202-408-9514 if you have any questions or need additional information

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Decker", written over a horizontal line.

Curt Decker
Executive Director