



May 15, 2019

Ms. Tara Dunlop Jackson  
Committee Liaison Officer  
U.S. Census Bureau, Room 8H177  
4600 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland, MD 20746

Re: National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations

Dear Ms. Dunlop Jackson:

I write today to urge the Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations (NAC) to include organizations advocating for the rights of people with disabilities and people with disabilities in its membership.

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is the non-profit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and Client Assistance Program (CAP) systems for individuals with disabilities. The P&As and CAPs were established by the United States Congress to protect the rights of people with disabilities and their families through legal support, advocacy, referral, and education. P&As and CAPs are in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands), and there is a P&A and CAP affiliated with the Native American Consortium which includes the Hopi, Navaho and San Juan Southern Paiute Nations in the Four Corners region of the Southwest. Collectively, the P&A and CAP Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

NDRN staff recently attended NAC's Spring Meeting between May 2-3, 2019 and noticed that the disability community is not explicitly represented in NAC's membership even though disability is a part of every community members of the committee currently represent, including young children, LGBTQ persons, immigrant families, and racial and ethnic minorities.

In 2018 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that 1 in 4 adults in the United States live with a disability, 61 million people.<sup>i</sup> "Persons with mental or physical disabilities" are also listed as a Hard-to-Count population for the upcoming 2020 Census.<sup>ii</sup> The disability community is one of the few minority groups that anyone can join at any stage

in their life, yet the community is often overlooked and forgotten about, and at risk of being undercounted in next year's census unless the Census Bureau and NAC actively include people with disabilities in its outreach efforts, partnership and membership.

As NAC continues to identify "new strategies for improved census operations, survey and data collection methods, including identifying cost-efficient ways to increase census participation and reduce the undercount" and considers topics such as hard to reach populations, race and ethnicity, language, aging populations, American Indian and Alaska Native tribal considerations, new immigrant populations, populations affected by natural disasters, highly mobile and migrant populations, complex households, rural populations, and population segments with limited access to technology<sup>iii</sup>, NDRN urges NAC to directly include people with disabilities.

Therefore, on behalf of the NDRN and the 57 P&A agencies it represents, I ask that you consider adding a member that represents the disability community to the National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations. Disability must not be overlooked when discussing important matters like our Nation's decennial census and we urge NAC to include people with disabilities. Please contact Erika Hudson, Public Policy Analyst, at Erika.Hudson@ndrn.org or 202-408-9514 ext. 134 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Curt Decker  
Executive Director

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p0816-disability.html>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/pmr-materials/10-19-2018/pmr-hard-to-count-2018-10-19.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.census.gov/about/cac/nac.html>