

October 11, 2023

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Thank you for your letter in support for the designation of people with disabilities as a population experiencing health disparities for NIH research purposes. This designation recognizes the importance and need for research advances to improve our understanding of the complexities leading to disparate health outcomes and the development multilevel interventions to address them. Importantly, the designation encourages research across NIH and it is one of several steps NIH is taking to address health disparities faced by people with disabilities and to ensure their representation in NIH research.

As the lead institute at NIH focused on minority health and health disparities research, NIMHD encourages innovative research endeavors, fosters research collaborations, promotes diversity in research training, and monitors and reports on associated activities across NIH. The science conducted at and supported by NIMHD involves strong, trusted partnerships and collaborations to execute innovative and multi-disciplinary research aimed at reducing and ultimately eliminating health disparities. I look forward to working with fellow NIH Institutes, Centers and Offices (ICO) on additional efforts with focused attention towards diseases and health conditions addressed by their mission areas that addresses research on health and health outcomes of people with disabilities.

As you know, along with the designation, we launched the new collaborative research initiative with a number of NIH ICOs titled [Health and Health Disparities Among Persons Living with Disabilities](#). We have several additional research programs with opportunities for research on people with disabilities, including [Technology Development to Reduce Health Disparities](#), [The Role of Work in Health Disparities](#), and [Patient-Clinician Relationship: Improving Health Outcomes in Populations That Experience Health Care Disparities](#). These are available on our [website](#), and you can receive updates on new opportunities and other news from the Institute by signing up for our [listserv](#). I hope you will share these with your colleagues.

Best regards,



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