

Opening Statement

Wm. Lacy Clay, Chairman

*Hearing on “Does Federal Statistical Data Adequately Serve
People Living with Disabilities?”*

*Information Policy, Census, and National Archives
Subcommittee*

*Wednesday, June 4, 2008
2154 Rayburn HOB
2:00 p.m.*

**TODAY WE WILL EXPLORE THE
CHALLENGES OF COLLECTING
RELIABLE DATA THAT MEASURES THE
STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH
DISABILITIES.**

**WE WILL ALSO EXAMINE WAYS IN
WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
CAN BETTER MONITOR AND
EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF**

**LAWS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
THAT SERVE DISABLED AMERICANS.**

**OVER 50 MILLION AMERICANS
LIVING WITH DISABILITIES RELY ON
PUBLIC PROGRAMS FOR SUPPORT. IN
ADDITION, THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT SPENDS BILLIONS OF
DOLLARS ON PROGRAMS AIMED AT
IMPROVING THE LIVES OF
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

**PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND
ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL DOLLARS
HAVE GROWN, AND WILL CONTINUE
TO GROW. THEREFORE, IT IS
ESSENTIAL THAT CONGRESS AND**

**OTHER POLICY MAKERS KNOW IF
CURRENT PROGRAMS PERFORM
ACCORDING TO EXPECTATIONS.**

**HOPEFULLY, THIS HEARING CAN
BEGIN A PROCESS TO EVALUATE
CURRENT POLICIES AND DETERMINE
WHETHER THEY ARE EFFECTIVE TO
ASSIST PEOPLE LIVING WITH
DISABILITIES AND HELP CONGRESS
PLAN FOR FUTURE NEEDS.**

**WE HAVE SOME OUTSTANDING
WITNESSES WHO ARE HERE TO SHARE
THEIR EXPERTISE ABOUT THIS ISSUE
AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON
HOW CONGRESS CAN BEST MOVE
FORWARD.**

**I THANK YOU ALL FOR APPEARING
AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR
TESTIMONY.**