



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

May 4, 2018

Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller of the United States, U.S. GAO
Attn: PCORI Board Nominations
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller Dodaro:

On behalf of the Health Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) we are writing in support of the nomination of Dr. Kara Ayers, Associate Director and an Assistant Professor at the University of Cincinnati University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UC UCEDD), to the Board of Governors for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). She would be an excellent choice for either the open Researcher or Patient positions.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The health task force is focused on health care policy and the impact on people with disabilities.

PCORI's charge is to conduct comparative clinical effectiveness research and to assess outcomes that matter to patients (patient needs, outcomes and preferences). For people with disabilities, this often means assessing outcomes impacting quality of life which requires significant engagement of people potentially benefiting from the research to understand their experiences. Dr. Ayers can provide valuable input on the challenges of traditional research methods for people with disabilities and other under-represented populations and provide perspectives on effective dissemination of information to and through the disability community.

Dr. Ayers obtained her PhD in clinical psychology from Nova Southeastern University and completed her internship at Wright State University. Dr. Ayers is a professor, a social media manager, and an active advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. She is also the co-founder of the Disabled Parenting Project, which is a peer-to-peer

support network for parents with disabilities that emerged from a participatory action research project.

Thank you for this opportunity to support Dr. Ayers's nomination. Please feel free to contact me directly at ward@thearc.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely

The CCD Health Task Force Co-chairs:

Bethany Lilly

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Dave Machledt

National Health Law Program

Julie Ward

The Arc of the United States

