Title: Eugenics and Eradication of Deaf People

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Problem to be addressed:
There are companies, research institutions, and organizations whose goal is to eradicate deafness in the world today. There has been an increase in policies and research to advance gene editing, genetic and stem cell treatments, including Deaf genes/cochleas. Deaf people are not being consulted, giving input on the ethical considerations or even aware of the issues. Companies, organizations, and research institutions are not considering the bio-ethics of what they are doing.

Proposed Solution:
NAD will address the ongoing practice of eugenics and eradication of the Deaf by different companies, organizations, and research institutions. We propose the NAD shall do the following:

1. Hold companies, organizations, and research institutions accountable for the advancement of eradication of Deaf people.
2. Create a bill for US Congress addressing the reality of Eugenics and to stop the advancement of eradication of Deaf people.
3. Create a position paper regarding current practices of Eugenics and our stance on the issue.
4. Communicate to the Deaf community about Eugenics and how the eradication of our community is happening.
5. Work with the American Medical Association on the bio-ethics of such research and application.

Rationale:
This priority proposal ties directly into the NAD’s mission statement to protect the civil and human rights of deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States. Genetic therapies and treatments go further than merely banning sign language. They will fundamentally alter human nature and the Deaf person. There are current companies who are investing dollars into finding gene therapy cures for deafness. Such an example is: https://akouos.com/our-focus/. Many Deaf people are not aware of this and should have an input.

Fiscal Impact:
Costs would include finding Subject Matter Experts in the creation of a position paper, as well as doing a social justice campaign, staff time, conferences/travel for meetings if needed, and materials if needed. Final costs unknown at this time, but can be kept to a minimum if done right.

NAD Board/HQ Response:
The NAD supports this priority, and has consistently addressed various medical efforts that have an eugenic effect. Previously, the NAD has had a BioEthics committee and it can be restarted to develop a position statement.