

NATIONAL
DISABILITY RIGHTS
NETWORK



Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities

March 3, 2017

Dear Senator:

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) urges you to reject H.J. Res 37 and S.J. Res 12, the Congressional Review Act (CRA) disapproval resolution of the 2016 Federal Acquisition Regulation rule designed to reduce employment discrimination against people with disabilities and veterans, including those with service-connected disabilities.

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&A and CAP systems 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, Navajo 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 strongly believes that disapproving this rule would weaken important nondiscrimination and affirmative hiring provisions intended for people with disabilities and veterans. For more than four decades, individuals with disabilities and veterans have been protected by federal laws against discrimination in employment with employers that do business with the federal government. In addition, these landmark laws (Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974) have required large federal contractors to take affirmative action to recruit, hire, promote, and retain these individuals, who traditionally face higher unemployment rates than their peers. The Federal Acquisition Regulation that is being targeted by this CRA resolution of disapproval simply ensures that companies that want to do business with the federal government disclose whether they have been in violation of these longstanding requirements.

Please vote against H.J. Res and S.J. Res 12 and help ensure individuals with disabilities and veterans have a fair shot at employment.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Lowe, Senior Public Policy Analyst at Amanda.lowe@ndrn.org or at 202-408-9514, ext. 101.

Sincerely,

Curt Decker
Executive Director