



March 27, 2020

Representative Jim Langevin
2077 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Langevin:

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) would like to thank you for introducing H.R. 6248, the “Disability Access to Transportation Act”. NDRN applauds this legislation for increasing accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities.

NDRN is the voluntary membership association for Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and Client Assistance Program (CAP) agencies. The P&A and CAP agencies are a nationwide network of congressionally mandated, cross disability organizations operating in every state in the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands). There is also a P&A and CAP affiliated with the Native American Consortium which includes the Hopi, Navajo, and San Juan Southern Paiute Nations located in the Four Corners region of the Southwest.

The P&A/CAP Network has the authority to provide legally based advocacy services and legal representation to all people with disabilities. P&As and CAPs pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate remedies under all applicable federal and state laws to protect and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. Collectively, the P&A/CAP Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

P&As have a vested interest in addressing transportation issues because of the importance of transportation for people with disabilities. The P&As work to ensure reliable and accessible transportation so people with disabilities can go to work, go shopping, visit their friends and family, and accomplish many of the day-to-day tasks necessary to live in the community.

NDRN is supportive of this legislation because it underscores the need for continued efforts to create accessible transportation options. This legislation will allow the transportation sector to innovate and provide services in a way that empowers individuals with disabilities through provisions like the one-stop paratransit pilot program and accessibility data pilot program. Both provisions will help improve transportation

planning and the ability for individuals with disabilities to shop, get to the doctors, a job, or school. NDRN agrees that transportation is a core component of independent living and a necessary part of community integration.

While this legislation is certainly a step in the right direction, we appreciate that the bill recognizes that individuals with disabilities still face systemic discrimination and a lack of accessible transportation options. There is still much left to be done around the country to ensure people with disabilities have accessible transportation options.

Again, NDRN applauds this important piece of legislation, which will empower individuals with disabilities. We look forward to working with you to enact this significant legislation into law. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cyrus Huncharek, Public Policy Analyst, at cyrus.huncharek@ndrn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Curtis L. Decker".

Curtis L. Decker
Executive Director