



July 27, 2020

Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
114 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mucarsel-Powell:

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) would like to thank you for leading the effort to include report language in the Fiscal Year 21 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill which encourages the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to partner with the nationwide network of Protection & Advocacy (P&A) agencies to monitor the safety and conditions in ORR facilities to ensure adherence to Federal, State and local codes related to the standards of childcare or the well-being of children with disabilities. We were very pleased to see the inclusion of this crucial report language in the House bill and strongly agree with the Committee that there must be more robust monitoring of care and treatment for unaccompanied children with disabilities in ORR funded care provider facilities.

NDRN is the voluntary membership association for 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.

NDRN and many of the P&A agencies around the country have been gravely concerned about the treatment of children with disabilities in ORR facilities. Many of our concerns were substantiated through a P&A monitoring [report](#) on the Homestead Emergency Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children prompting our desire for report language to increase collaboration between the P&As and ORR. As new leadership takes the reins at ORR, we look forward to collaborating with them to ensure children with disabilities in ORR facilities are protected.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this issue, and we stand ready to continue to work toward ensuring children in ORR facilities are safe and that their rights are protected. Please contact Cyrus Huncharek, Public Policy Analyst, at cyrus.huncharek@ndrn.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Curtis L. Decker, Executive Director