

July 1, 2020

Chairman Peter DeFazio
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) would like to thank you and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for the important disability related provisions in H.R. 2 the "Moving Forward Act". NDRN applauds the inclusion of these important policies as they will help move our nation's transportation systems closer to full accessibility for people with disabilities and thus we support the passage of this critical piece of legislation.

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.

NDRN and the P&A Network have long worked to ensure transportation is accessible for people with disabilities. We believe H.R. 2 will bring us one step closer to realizing a truly accessible transportation system in this country. We are particularly pleased to see the inclusion of the following provisions:

- **Amtrak Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Assessment** which requires Amtrak to perform a comprehensive review of all policies, protocols, and guidelines for compliance with the ADA.
- **Prohibition on Mandatory Arbitration** which prohibits Amtrak from imposing mandatory arbitration forcing passengers who purchase tickets to waive their right to file a lawsuit or participate in a class action.
- **Complete and Context Sensitive Street Design** which revises roadway design standards under 23 USC 109 to require consideration of all users of the transportation facility including individuals with disabilities.

- **Improvements to the Office of Civil Rights of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Accessibility Complaints Process** which requires a uniform and customer-friendly ADA complaint process.
- **Demonstration Grants to Support Reduced Fare Transit** which creates a demonstration grant to provide for a reduced fare for low-income riders to help close transit equity gaps.
- **Transit Bus Operator Compartment Redesign Program** which authorizes FTA research on redesigning bus driver compartments including passenger accessibility compliance for passenger boarding, alighting, and securement with the ADA.
- **One-Stop Paratransit Program** which creates a grant program to examine the costs and benefits of allowing flexibility in paratransit trips that allow one stop for certain needs.
- **Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way** which requires the U.S. Access Board to finalize guidelines setting minimum accessibility standards for pedestrians in the public right-of-way.

While the provisions above are welcomed and needed, we know more must be done. For example, NDRN and the P&A Network have taken a strong interest in the accessibility of rail transportation for a number of years, including issuing a report on the failure of Amtrak to be accessible for people with disabilities in 2013. That report “All Aboard (Except People with Disabilities) Amtrak’s 23 Years of ADA Compliance Failure” can be found [here](#). While the journey toward a fully accessible transportation system continues, we believe H.R. 2 will help make these efforts become a reality sooner.

Again, NDRN applauds this important piece of legislation, which will increase access to transportation for individuals with disabilities. We look forward to working with you to enact this 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,



Curtis L. Decker
Executive Director