



October 8, 2020

Senator Elizabeth Warren
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) would like to thank you for introducing the “COVID-19 in Corrections Data Transparency Act”. NDRN applauds this legislation as it will improve the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in our nation’s correctional facilities which include incarcerated 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, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of 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 COVID-19 crisis has further illuminated existing deficiencies in infection control procedures and access to medical care in U.S. jails, prisons and detention centers. As the pandemic continues to run its course, there is a need for greater scrutiny of the conditions of incarceration and of the needs of both the most medically vulnerable and people with disabilities to be protected from infection and preventable illness. This legislation will require the collection and reporting of critical weekly information about COVID-19 in jails, prisons, juvenile facilities, and other correctional facilities and mandate data disaggregation by disability. The disaggregation of the data by disability is crucially important as it will give correctional facilities and policymakers a better sense of the impact of COVID-19 on incarcerated individuals with disabilities.

Again, NDRN applauds your introduction of this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with you to enact the “COVID-19 in Corrections Data Transparency Act” 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