March 12, 2021

Secretary Marcia Fudge
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington DC 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge:

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) writes to congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We appreciate your ongoing commitment to housing access for the low income and senior communities. Individuals with disabilities are statistically more likely to live below the poverty line and live on fixed incomes. This in turn effects access to accessible and affordable housing options. NDRN is excited to work with HUD on these important issues.

NDRN is the non-profit membership association of Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agencies that are located in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the United States Territories. In addition, there is a P&A 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. P&A agencies are authorized under various federal statutes to provide legal representation and related advocacy services, and to investigate abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities in a variety of settings. The P&A Network comprises the nation’s largest provider of legally based advocacy services for persons with disabilities, including advocacy on housing related services.

Your history illustrates a commitment to advocacy for groups who have routinely been negatively impacted by poorly funded and overlooked housing services. The examples of work you carried out in your home state of Ohio to develop livable and affordable housing options brings hope for similar projects at the national level for persons with disabilities. People with disabilities are so often impacted by inaccessible and unaffordable housing options. NDRN is excited to work with you during this administration to find new ways to fund and administer housing projects to make sure all persons have a safe and suitable place to live.

Furthermore, COVID-19 has greatly impacted the financial circumstances of countless Americans, which in turn has impacted their ability to pay rent or mortgages. NDRN looks forward to working with you on plans with HUD to address what is likely to be an ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
We would once again like to congratulate you for your confirmation. We are excited to work with you moving forward. Please reach out to NDRN with any questions by contacting Claire Stanley. You can reach out to Claire Stanley at Claire.Stanley@ndrn.org.

Sincerely,

Curtis L. Decker
Executive Director