



August 25, 2021

Representative Maxine Waters
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waters:

On behalf of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), I would like to thank you for introducing and promoting the Housing is Infrastructure bill. Too many people currently live in unaffordable housing and are at a constant risk of homelessness. This is a significant challenge in the disability community. Persons with disabilities struggle to find affordable, accessible housing where they can live independently and safely.

NDRN is the voluntary membership association for Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agencies. The P&A 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 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 works tirelessly to ensure that all people have access to accessible and affordable housing. However, as you know, access to such housing continues to be a significant obstacle. We are excited to see legislation that will improve and increase the number of accessible housing units. Americans with disabilities have fought for decades to live independently and integrated into their communities. But, if accessible housing units are not available, the ability to live in the community becomes difficult if not impossible.

NDRN also applauds your commitment to making housing more affordable. People with disabilities are more likely to live below the poverty line and live on strict budgets. Government benefits like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) which many Americans with disabilities live off of, equates to an income far below the poverty line. As a result, access to housing is limited as the price of housing continues to rise. Therefore, we commend you for your commitment to bringing about more affordable housing opportunities.

Again, NDRN applauds the introduction of this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with you to enact the Housing is Infrastructure bill. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Claire Stanley, Public Policy Analyst, at Claire.stanley@ndrn.org

Sincerely,

Curtis L. Decker
Executive Director
National Disability Rights Network