



August 24, 2021

Congressman Jimmy Panetta
406 Cannon Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Panetta:

On behalf of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), I would like to thank you for introducing the Disability Relief Medicaid Act (DRMA) HR 4937. Unfortunately, our country continues to see a rise in natural disasters. People with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by such crises; Emergency Management Systems often do not have policies put in place to accommodate residents with disabilities. This legislation will work to provide long-needed services for people with disabilities during and after disasters.

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, 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.

DRMA will greatly help people with disabilities who are pushed across state borders as a result of an emergency. Many Americans with disabilities rely on Medicaid for crucial medical and home-based services. However, if they suddenly cross state lines, they have to go through the bureaucratic process to reapply; something that is unsurmountable during a disaster. DRMA will cut through the red tape to serve persons in their most vulnerable moments.

Again, NDRN applauds the introduction of this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with you to enact the 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