



December 13, 2022

Congressman John Sarbanes  
2370 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sarbanes:

On behalf of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), I would like to thank you for introducing the Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act (H.R. 9021). This bill will enable persons with disabilities to equitably access all online information and to communicate effectively through online services, while ensuring that people with disabilities can access online resources privately and independently. During the COVID-19 pandemic, persons with disabilities reported that an overwhelming number of websites and applications posed a barrier to accessing necessary materials; the crisis amplified the need for online services.

NDRN is the voluntary membership association for the nationwide network of Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agencies. P&As are congressionally mandated, cross disability organizations operating in every state in the United States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, 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. The P&A Network comprises the nation's largest provider of legally based advocacy services for persons with disabilities.

NDRN strongly supports the passage of the bill to ensure those with disabilities can have the same equal opportunity to access websites and mobile applications. The design and introduction of increasingly inaccessible websites and applications is only growing. NDRN appreciates the intent of the legislation to assure the full legal right of those who are unable to access websites and mobile applications in an equitable and secure manner.

Again, NDRN applauds the introduction of this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with you to enact the Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act (H.R. 9021). Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Claire Stanley, Public Policy Analyst, at [Claire.stanley@ndrn.org](mailto:Claire.stanley@ndrn.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marlene Sells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Executive Director  
National Disability Rights Network

<sup>1</sup> *Prevalence of Disability and Disability Types | CDC.* (2019, November 18). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/features/disability-prevalence-rural-urban.html>