



May 9, 2023

Representative Nanette Diaz Barragan
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Barragan:

On behalf of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)*, I would like to thank you for your introduction of the Returning Home Act, which provides critical resources for securing housing for individuals returning from incarceration.

NDRN and the P&A agencies work tirelessly to ensure that all individuals with disabilities have access to services and supports necessary to live their lives. This kind of support is particularly important for individuals with disabilities who oftentimes face additional challenges in securing stable and affordable housing. Many people with disabilities are faced with discrimination and additional barriers when attempting to secure and access housing and other services, which can ultimately lead to homelessness and housing instability.

As you mentioned when introducing this important legislation, there are 80 million people in the United States with an arrest or conviction record, and many of these individuals face significant barriers to accessing adequate housing. Your commitment to addressing this issue through the Returning Home Act is an important step toward ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances, have access to safe and stable housing.

NDRN thanks you again for your dedication to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities and all those impacted by incarceration. We look forward to working with you to enact the Returning Home Act. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Claire Stanley, Public Policy Analyst, at Claire.stanley@ndrn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marlene Sallo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marlene Sallo
Executive Director
National Disability Rights Network

*NDRN is the non-profit membership association of Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agencies located in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, 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. NDRN and the P&A Network advocate for many people with disabilities around housing related issues.