

# 2020 Spring CEO Conference Update on Public Policy March 24, 2020

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# Fiscal Year (FY) 21 Budget and Appropriations

- President's budget was released in early February. Contained many of the same cuts in programs (including PAIMI and PADD) as previous budgets and was dead on arrival on Hill because it was different than the two budget deal Congress reached last year.
- NDRN has deployed a new appropriations strategy this year. We started with connecting with the P&A agencies on their funding priorities and how that might conflate with the interests of Members from their delegation.
- Then the NDRN staff held meetings with Hill staff to convey the message and lean the Member's timeline for appropriations requests. This was followed by NDRN staff helping P&As complete the request process.
- Finally, we are pushing individual letters for specific programs for Members to sign on to.

# Appropriations Table\*

Program	FY 13 Post Sequestration	FY 18 Omnibus	FY 19 Final Appropriations	FY 20 President's Budget	Percent Difference Between 19 and 20
PADD	38.617	40.734	40.734	38.734	- 4.9%
PAIMI	34.249	36.146	36.146	14.146	- 60.9%
PAIR	17.088	17.650	17.650	17.650	0%
CAP	11.600	13.000	13.000	13	0%
PATBI	3.089	4.089	4.089	3.089	- 24.5%**
PAAT	4.059	4.768	4.768	3.768	- 21.0%**
PAVA	4.947	6.963	6.963	4.963	- 28.7%

\* Numbers in Millions of Dollars

\*\* I assumed half the overall reduction (\$1 million) came from P&A program, and other half from state program

# Representative Payee

- As work has now turned to implementation of the new program, we continue quarterly meetings with Hill staff to update them on the program, as well as issues that have been encountered in the start-up and implementation.

# Mental Health Reform

- There is no love for the PAIMI program, or community based treatment versus lock them up and drug them, from the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse in HHS, [Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz](#), and the head of CMHS, Dr. Anita Everett.
- We also know from meetings and interactions that the leadership believes the arguments made by TAC and others against the PAIMI program.
- While no specific mental health reform legislation, the issue pops up legislatively in things like school or mass violence.
- The [\*\*Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee \(ISMICC\)\*\*](#) was formed by the Cures Act, and issued an initial report. The Committee will continue for additional years. SAMSHA seems to be using the recommendations from this report to drive its work.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/advisory-councils/smi-committee>

# Substance Use P&A

- We continue to feel there is a role for the P&As to play in this policy sphere and are advocating for dedicated funding for P&As to work on advocacy for individuals with a substance use addiction.
- We continue to have discussions with Congress to get this dedicated funding, and are hopeful to get traction this year.

# Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- Ultimately full repeal and replace of the ACA has not taken place, but many negative changes have been made through regulation, executive order, and some legislation (repeal of individual mandate).
- Attacks will continue through regulations and executive orders. Medicaid is clearly in the crosshairs of the Administration and many Republicans in Congress, and a lot of education is needed to make Members and their staff understand the importance of this program.
- Supreme Court will take up in the fall the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit decision declaring the ACA unconstitutional.

# HCBS and MFP

- Still spending a lot of time explaining the importance of the HCBS rule to both Congress and the Administration.
- A new heightened scrutiny guidance from CMS has been issued that we do not really like, but doesn't override the basic tenants of the HCBS rule, which is a positive.
- MFP funding has been extended through the end of the May. Legislation has been introduced this Congress to extend funding for an additional 5 years, and we are hopeful to pass a long term extension along with the Medicaid extenders that needs to pass this year.



# Disability Integration Act

- Civil Rights Legislation introduced to address the need for long-term services and supports.
- Legislation introduced in both the House and Senate.
- Advocates seeking cosponsors of this legislation, and the hope was that the House would take it up this year.
- But the push for considering this legislation died down following a controversial statement from a leading advocate.

# Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)

- EVV was part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act passed in 2016 and was to be implemented in states by January 2019.
- There have been multiple issues, concerns, and problems with the implementation of this program.
- In late June of 2018, legislation passed to extend the implementation date for EVV to January 2020.
- We continue to work with a number of organizations to either extend the date of implementation or modify the egregious provisions (GPS tracking for one).
- These attempts are at both the Congressional and Administration levels, and we have some hope to get legislation added to the Medicaid extenders legislation moving later this year.

# PADD – Developmental Disabilities Act

- Given focus elsewhere, DD Act reauthorization has not been a priority for Congress the last few years.
- VOR seems to have shifted focus from the DD Act, to the appropriations process, requesting hearings, reduced budgets for DD Act programs, and restrictions through appropriations language.
- Last Congress there was a hearing in the House on class actions and impact on institutions. See: <https://judiciary.house.gov/hearing/examining-class-action-lawsuits-intermediate-care-facilities-individuals-intellectual-disabilities-icf-iid/>.
- This hearing then led to reintroduction of what I call the Barney Frank bill, H.R. 6786, which would limit the ability of DOJ and P&As to pursue class actions concerning institutions.
- So far we have heard of no action on this issue this Congress, but there continues to be a need to educate the Hill on your work regarding institutions, as legislation could be reintroduced.

# Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)

- While it was technically not up for reauthorization until 2019, because of the retirement of Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), who was one of the leading proponents of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act, a push was made to pass a reauthorization as a legacy item.
- We made a run at increasing the very low authorization amount and providing access to P&As to V.A. facilities and programs so veterans with traumatic brain injuries could get needed advocacy.
- Congress ended up passing a close to clean reauthorization with minimal changes to the act before the end of the last Congress.

# Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- Signed into law, December 10, 2015.
- Bi-partisan, compromise bill.
- Important wins for the disability community:
  - 1% cap.
  - UDL.
  - State plans report on reduction of use of aversives.
  - Interoperability language with accommodations.
  - Subgroups meaningfully counted in accountability system.
- All state plans have now been approved.
- The President's FY 21 budget block grants nearly all of ESSA.

# Helpful ESSA Implementation Resources

- **NDRN resources on ESSA available at:**  
<http://www.ndrn.org/en/component/content/article/35/579-esea-implementation.html>.
- **Analysis of ESSA state plans:**  
<http://advocacyinstitute.org/ESSA/SWDanalysis.shtml>.
- **Analysis of ESSA state activity:**  
<http://understandingessa.org/>.
- **Review of ESSA state plans:**  
<https://bellwethereducation.org/publication/independent-review-essa-state-plans>.
- **NCLD Report reviewing disability provisions in ESSA state plans:**  
[https://www.nclد.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/AssessingESSA\\_2018.pdf](https://www.nclد.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/AssessingESSA_2018.pdf).

# Vouchers and Voucher-Like Schemes

- Continues to be a major theme for Administration
- In February, 2020 the Administration announced “New Freedom Scholarships” which would provide 5 billion to Education Savings Accounts.  
[www.ed.gov/freedom](http://www.ed.gov/freedom).
- NDRN, through the National Coalition for Public Education, is actively engaging in efforts to educate Members of Congress regarding NDRN’s concerns about the IDEA rights of students with disabilities (or lack of rights) under many school choice structures.
- NDRN will continue to closely monitor legislation and administration policies on this issue.

# Restraint and Seclusion

- The Keeping all Students Safe Act was reintroduced at the end of the 115<sup>th</sup> (Sen. Murray (D-WA), Rep. Scott (D-VA)). NDRN supported.
- The APRAIS coalition held a Hill briefing on the bill in the end of 2018.
- House Education & Labor held a subcommittee hearing on restraint and seclusion in Feb, 2019. NDRN submitted testimony and a letter of thanks for the hearing.
- NDRN, as a co-chair of CCD Education Taskforce the APRAIS coalition has been in numerous meetings with Ed & Labor and HELP.
- Hopeful that a bill will be introduced this spring.



# Higher Education Act

- Worked with Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Rep Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) and supported the Improving Access to Higher Education Act.
- House Education & Labor Committee voted H.R. 4674, the College Affordability Act out of Committee.
- The Senate continues to signal that HEA is a priority in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

# Education P&A Bill

- Continuing to work with Rep. DeSaulnier and House & Senate Committee staff on language.
- Looking for a Republican co-sponsor.
- The bill provides dedicated funding for P&As for rights work for students who are IDEA, 504, or ADA eligible.

# Other Education Related Bills/Issues

- IDEA Full Funding Act – NDRN continues to work on this legislation in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- School Climate Principles: NDRN signed onto School Climate Principles through LCCR and is working in coalition on Hill visits  
<https://www.ndrn.org/resource/ndrn-signs-on-to-civil-rights-principles-for-safe-healthy-and-inclusive-school-climates/>
- NDRN is also keeping an eye on:
  - Foster care and education.
  - Native American education issues.
  - School Climate and School to Prison Pipeline Issues.
  - School Safety Reports and Legislation.

## Education Outreach, Collaboration & Presentations

- To broaden awareness of the Network and increase ability to weigh in on state plans and implementation, NDRN regularly engages in outreach and collaborative activities with:
- CCD Education Task Force – co-chair.
- APRAIS - co-chair.
- Coalition on MH/CR/Schools/Guns - co-chair
- Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights ESSA group – participant.

## Education Outreach, Collaboration & Presentations (Continued)

- National Coalition on Public Education – participant.
- Medicaid in Schools - participant.
- Education Big Table – participant.
- IDEA Full Funding - participant
- Future of Privacy Forum working group on student privacy and school safety reports.

# ED Regulations & Guidance:

- OSERS issued final regulations which delay the implementation of significant disproportionality regulation until 2020 for students K-12 and until 2022 for students ages 3-5. The regulations were noticed on the Secretary's Fall 2019 Unified agenda.
- The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled against ED and found that the delay of the significant disproportionality regulations was an "illegal delay".
- On December 21, 2018, ED rescinded the school discipline guidance.
- OSERS released its ReThink Education Framework and requested input on the Response Driven Accountability process. NDRN submitted comments.
- U.S. Department of Education's Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) released new guidance on FERPA.

# Veterans

- NDRN is working to get the Veterans P&A bill reintroduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- NDRN is working with Senators Rounds, Brown & Casey and Representatives Roby & Titus.
- At the end of October 2016, NDRN signed a MOU with VR&E at the V.A. NDRN has completed two webinars. The first webinar covered the P&A history, structure and authorities. The second topic was education for students with disabilities. VR&E has completed one webinar for the P&A Network and a second is planned in late October

# Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)

- NDRN and CPSD are co-chairs of a coalition focused on Competitive Integrated Employment.  
[www.integratedemploymentnow.com](http://www.integratedemploymentnow.com)
- NDRN remains highly concerned that the WIOA VR Regulations will be opened. NDRN has met with Secretary Devos and had many meetings with Assistant Secretary Collett on the issue.
- Most recently NDRN co-led on a letter with over 200 hundred organizations urging that ED not open the WIOA regs.
- NDRN and a small group of allies met with Acting Assistant Secretary of OSERS, Mark Shultz to discuss concerns around opening the regs.
- NDRN received a letter



# Competitive Integrated Employment (Continued)

- NDRN and allies sent another community –wide letter to Secretary DeVos highlighting the NCD Report, “From the New Deal to the Real Deal” and the Senate HELP Committee Minority Staff Report.
- NDRN will submit comments and supply the Network with template comments when the regulations are opened which will be driven by the website.

# Employment Related Legislation

- Raise the Wage Act: S. 150, H.R. 582
  - Includes a 6 year phase out of 14 (c) certificates.
- Transformation to Competitive Employment Act: S. 260, H.R. 873
  - Includes a 6 year phase out of 14 (c) certificates.
  - Creates competitive grant program for states and entities to transition 14 (c) holders to CIE models.
  - Creates a National TA center.
  - Requires reporting and evaluation.

# Achieving Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act

- Still working to get the age to open an ABLE Account raised.
- S. 651 the ABLE Age Adjustment Act of 2019 was introduced by Senator Casey (D-PA) with eight cosponsors – this is a bipartisan piece of legislation. Working to get similar legislation introduced in the House and find appropriate vehicle to get it enacted this Congress.

# Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - Notification bills

- Passed the House last Congress, but died in the Senate.
- Representative Calvert (R-CA) with 8 Republican cosponsors introduced a new version of the ADA Notification bill shortly before the August recess. No Democratic cosponsors yet. Unclear with Democratic majority if it will get any traction in the House, but will be continuing to educate members and staff there.
- Senator Graham (R-SC) is now the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and he led the fight against the pool lift rule a couple of years ago. So, we are paying close attention to the Senate to see if there is any movement in that body to bring up an ADA notification bill.

# ORR and Immigration

- ORR: Because of the great reports the P&A's have provided, NDRN is able to bring evidence of the work we are doing in this space to the Hill. We are still working funding so that P&As can continue to do this work.
- Flores Regulations: Rewrite as follows: A Federal District Court blocked the government from implementing it's new regulations because they undermine the original Flores Settlement Agreement. DOJ has appealed the District Court's ruling and oral arguments are scheduled for April. We continue to monitor developments as the case proceeds.
- Public Charge: The U.S. Supreme Court issued an order that cleared the way for DHS to implement its new Public Charge regulation. The Court's decisions were limited to a determination that preliminary injunctions issued by the lower courts should be stayed while the litigation challenging the regulations proceeds in lower courts. The Court's opinions do not address the merits of the underlying cases.

# Housing/Emergency Management

- We are meeting with House and Senate members to push for funding for P&A's Emergency Management work – pre, during and post work.
- We are also meeting with House and Senate members to push for funding for recovery housing that is accessible and affordable.
- We continue to monitor and comment on HUD regulations regarding fair housing.

# PABSS and WIPA

- Funding for the PABSS and WIPA programs appear to be safe now that we have ensured that the Labor-HHS appropriation bills include language indicating that SSA is to fund these programs.
- WIPA contracts were last re-competed in 2015.
- No sign of attempt to reauthorize these programs in Congress.
- However, PABSS funding has been stagnant and we need to make the case that this funding needs to be increased from \$7 million.

# Social Security 2100 Act

- Legislation has been introduced in both the House (H.R. 860) and Senate (S. 269).
- Increase for all beneficiaries that is equivalent to 2% of the average benefit.
- Improves the annual cost of living adjustment formula to better reflect the cost of living.
- Ensures that any increase in benefits from bill does not result in a reduction of SSI benefits or loss of eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP.



# Transportation

- NDRN remains a member of the ACAA Coalition convened by PVA.
- NDRN staffer is now a member of the Dept. of Transportation's mandated Air Carrier Access Act advisory committee
- The FAA reauthorization that became law last Congress had some good provisions for people with disabilities around air travel.
- Senator Baldwin (D-WI) has introduced legislation again this Congress (S. 669) to further strengthen the Air Carrier Access Act to make it more useable to ensure full accessibility.
- NDRN remains the lead on working to increase Amtrak accessibility.
- NDRN is drafting priorities for a potential Amtrak and/or surface transportation reauthorization.

# Transportation (Continued)

- Autonomous Vehicles —NDRN will continue to work with a number of civil rights and transportation advocate groups to ensure any legislation on this topic ensures accessibility and safety for people with disabilities.

# Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

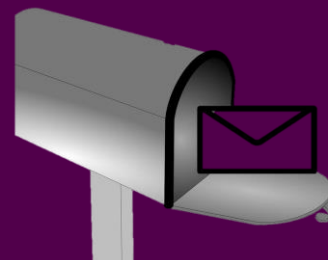
- The reauthorization of VAWA passed through the House and was stalled in the Senate. We are unsure of a timeline on this legislation
- Unfortunately, the disability community's voice was left out of some key areas. We have been meeting with members of the Senate Judiciary Committee on possible amendments to the reauthorization of the VAWA.

# Census 2020



# Census 2020 Cont.

- Most households will receive an invitation in the mail to self-respond online.
- These households can also respond by phone or by mail.
- Census enumerators will visit all households that did not self-respond to collect responses in person.



# Census 2020 Cont. II

- ☐ Number of people in household
- ☐ Homeownership (owner/renter)
- ☐ Name
- ☐ Sex
- ☐ Age
- ☐ Race and Hispanic Origin
- ☐ Relationship Status in Household
- ☐ Telephone Number

**Start here** OR go online at [url removed]  
Use a blue or black pen.

Before you answer Question 1, count the people living in this house, apartment, or mobile home using our guidelines.

- Count all people, including babies, who live and sleep here most of the time.
- If no one lives and sleeps at this address most of the time, go online at [url removed] or call the number on page 8.

The census must also include people without a permanent place to live, so:

- If someone who does not have a permanent place to live is staying here on April 1, 2020, count that person.

The Census Bureau also conducts counts in institutions and other places, so:

- Do not count anyone living away from here, either at college or in the Armed Forces.
- Do not count anyone in a nursing home, jail, prison, detention facility, etc., on April 1, 2020.
- Leave these people off your questionnaire, even if they will return to live here after they leave college, the nursing home, the military, jail, etc. Otherwise, they may be counted twice.

**1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?**  
Number of people =

**2. Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2020 that you did not include in Question 1?**  
Mark ☒ all that apply.

- ☐ Children, related or unrelated, such as newborn babies, grandchildren, or foster children
- ☐ Relatives, such as adult children, cousins, or in-laws
- ☐ Nonrelatives, such as roommates or live-in babysitters
- ☐ People staying here temporarily
- ☐ No additional people

**3. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home — Mark ☒ ONE box.**

- ☐ Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan? (Include home equity loans.)
- ☐ Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?
- ☐ Rented?
- ☐ Occupied without payment of rent?

**4. What is your telephone number?**  
We will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.  
Telephone Number  -  -

**7. What is this person's race?**  
Mark ☒ one or more boxes. Print original.

☐ White

☐ Black or African American

☐ Asian

☐ Hispanic or Latino

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

☐ Some other race — Print race or origin.

# Census 2020 Cont. III

## → Federal Funding

Guide how \$1.5 trillion in federal funds are allocated every year – including programs like Medicaid, housing vouchers, SNAP, etc. and much more!

## → Congressional Seats

Determines how many seats in Congress each U.S. state will receive.

## → District Boundaries

Influence where the boundaries of legislative, school, and voting districts are drawn.

# An Accessible 2020 Census

**“The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.”- US Census Bureau**

**→ Online**

Section 508 Compliant and a video guide in American Sign Language

**→ By Phone**

Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD/TTY) technology

**→ By Mail**

Braille and large print language guides (“Sample Ballots”)



# Census 2020 Resources

Issues

- ADA & Civil Rights
- Census 2020
- Community Integration
- Education
- Fires, Disasters & Emergencies
- Employment
- Funding
- Hate Incidents
- Justice System
- Mental Health
- Representative Payees
- Self-Determination
- Transportation
- Veterans
- Voting

Census 2020

## Count Everyone, Include Everyone

The 2020 Census will serve as the nation's 24th decennial census. It is important to include everyone in the census outreach process, including people with disabilities. NDRN is committed to advocacy efforts for an accurate population count, and is working with groups and organizations to keep outreach efforts as accessible as possible.





The Arc

United States Census 2020

## YOU COUNT! BE COUNTED.

### WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The government counts everyone in the country. They ask questions about every home in the country. One person from every home answers the questions. This is called the census. The census is when the government counts everyone in the country.

The census happens every 10 years. We will have a census in 2020.

The government will send you a letter in the mail. They will send the letter in March. This letter has instructions on how to fill out the census.

The census asks one person in every home to answer a few questions. A home can be a house or apartment.

### WHAT QUESTIONS DOES THE CENSUS ASK?

The census asks two kinds of questions. It asks questions about your home. Then, it asks questions about each person who lives in your home.

The census asks these questions about your home:



What is your phone number?



Do you own your home or rent it?



How many people live in your home?

Only one person needs to respond to the census in each home. If you live with other people, you should talk to them about who will fill it out.

Your answers to the census are **secret**. The government will not share your answers with anyone. Your answers are used to count how many people there are in the country. The law does not allow your answers to be shared for any other reason. The census does not ask if you are a citizen of the United States.

FOR MORE RESOURCES, VISIT [thearc.org/census](http://thearc.org/census).

CENSUS 2020

### An Accessible 2020 Census: FAQs by the Disability Community About Census Operations

November 27, 2019

Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality and NDRN published this FAQ to provide more information about census operations and accessibility for the disability community.

GENERAL

CENSUS 2020

### NDRN's Fall Public Comment to the National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations

November 8, 2019

NDRN submitted a letter of public comment to the National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations committee asking that they discuss the needs of people with disabilities.

COMMENTS

CENSUS 2020

### Census Bureau Says Census 2020 will be Accessible for Everyone

October 30, 2019

The US Census Bureau recently released a new factsheet entitled "The 2020 Census is Accessible for Everyone".

GENERAL

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Next >

# Census 2020 Resources Cont. II

- [Get out the Count \(GOTC\) Toolkit](#)
- [An Accessible GOTC Plan](#)
- [An Accessible 2020 Census: Frequently Asked Questions by the Disability Community about Census Operations](#)
- [the 2020 Census is accessible for everyone](#)
- [Public Comment to the National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations](#)
- [NDRN Partners with Census Bureau to Ensure a Fair and Accurate 2020 Census](#)
- [Cherokee Bradley Appointed to Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations](#)
- [Census 2020 Social Media Tool Kit](#)
- [Disability Community Highlighted at Senate Hearing on Census 2020](#)
- [Census 2020 will Not Include a Citizenship Question](#)
- [States Ranked by Percent of People with Disabilities Living in Hard-to-Count Census](#)
- [Why the Census Matters for People with Disabilities: A Guide to the 2020 Census Operations & Challenges](#)
- [NDRN Urges Census Bureau's NAC for Disability Representation](#)
- [An Accessible 2020 Census](#)
- [The Arc | Census 2020](#)
- [DisabilityCounts.org](#)

# Voting

- NDRN is working to increase PAVA funding and extend it to the Native American and Northern Marianas P&As.
- NDRN is advocating for the private right of action and lifting of the P&A litigation prohibition under HAVA. Along with a HAVA complaints process through the Department of Justice and U.S. Election Assistance Commission.
- NDRN is pushing towards research and development funding to support accessible voting technology and funding for polling place updates.
- NDRN is working with its partners for federal prohibition of state voter competency law.

# Federal Legislation

- **H.R.5510 - PAVA Program Inclusion Act**
- **S.3206 - Accessible Voting Act of 2020**
- H.R. 1 - The For The People Act
- H.R.2722 - Securing America's Federal Elections (SAFE) Act
- H.R.4 - Voting Rights Advancement Act
- S.1472 - Protecting American Votes and Elections (PAVE) Act
- H.R. 1799 - Voting Rights Amendment Act

# PAVA Program Inclusion Act

- H.R.5510 was introduced by Representative Gallego (AZ-7) in December 2019.
- Bipartisan support in the House.
- H.R. 5510 would extend PAVA funds to the Native American and Northern Marianas P&As.

# Accessible Voting Act of 2020

- S.3206 was introduced by Senators Bob Casey (PA) and Amy Klobuchar (MN) in January 2020.
- Establish a new Election Assistance Commission Office of Accessibility and new state accessible election websites.
- Fund states to implement voter accessibility upgrades at polling places.
- Lift the P&A litigation prohibition under HAVA.
- Extend PAVA funding to the Native American and Northern Marianas P&As.
- The bill would also for the first time provide protections for individuals subject to guardianship and ensure their right to vote is not arbitrarily removed.

# Blocking the Ballot Box: Ending Misuse of the ADA to Close Polling Places



## Blocking the Ballot Box

Ending Misuse of the ADA to Close Polling Places

January 2020



- The report examines counties with recent Department of Justice settlements for polling place accessibility.
- Recommendations and suggestions are available in the conclusion section of this report.

# Elections: Security vs. Accessibility

- Security advocates have made hand marked paper ballots their primary concern.
- Security advocates are pushing for limited or no use of ballot marking devices (BMDs).
  - Key action has been in Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland thus far.



# Elections: Security vs. Accessibility

- Elections accessibility is supported by multiple federal laws:
  - Americans with Disabilities Act, Help America Vote Act, Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act
- NDRN has taken a nuanced position on accessible equipment and attempted to partner with security advocates.

# Resources

NDRN – Amanda Lowe, Erika Hudson, or Cyrus Hunchrek  
202-408-9514 or [www.ndrn.org](http://www.ndrn.org)

U.S. Capitol Switchboard 202-224-3121

Contact Information for Senators

[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

Contact Information for Representatives

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

To track the progress of legislation and appropriations

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>

Census Information:

Census Counts: <https://censuscounts.org/>

NDRN: <https://www.ndrn.org/issues/census-2020/>