

March 3, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of support for the nomination of Loretta Elizabeth Lynch for United States Attorney General

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid,

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is the non-profit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and Client Assistance Program (CAP) agencies for individuals with disabilities. The P&As and CAPs were established by the United States Congress to protect the rights of people with disabilities and their families through legal support, advocacy, referral, and education. P&As and CAPs are in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands), and there is a P&A and CAP affiliated with the Native American Consortium which includes the Hopi, Navaho and Piute Nations in the Four Corners region of the Southwest. Collectively, the P&A and CAP Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

The Department of Justice plays a critical role in protecting the rights of people with disabilities and effectuating the promise of integration and access in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. We are confident that Ms. Lynch will carry on the recent ground-breaking work of the Department of Justice in advancing the employment and community integration of people with disabilities.

The Department of Justice is responsible for enforcing multiple laws that affect the lives of people with disabilities. One law of great importance to our work is the Americans with Disabilities Act and the integration mandate in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) that people with disabilities receive services in the

least restrictive setting to the person's liberty. The *Olmstead* decision has improved the lives of millions of people with disabilities by providing them the opportunity for full community integration in their homes, their jobs, and their daily lives.

Ms. Lynch is an exemplar leader that the Department of Justice needs to carry on its work. She has respect and support across the political spectrum because she listens to and works with people from all perspectives to accomplish significant outcomes. She has demonstrated skill inside and outside of the courtroom, including as a litigator in her multiple positions working in the U.S. Attorney's office of the Eastern District starting in 1990. She left the public life in 2001 to become a partner in the law firm of Hogan and Hartson and remained dedicated to the rights of all people and the work of enforcing United States laws.

The National Disability Rights Network strongly supports the nomination of Loretta Lynch for the position of United States Attorney General. We encourage you to confirm Ms. Lynch swiftly so that the Department can continue the important work of law enforcement as efficiently and effortlessly as possible. Her experience and understanding of the law will enable her to effectively enforce the rights of all Americans, including people with disabilities. Please contact Dara Baldwin, Public Policy Analyst, at dara.baldwin@ndrn.org or 202-408-9514 ext. 102 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Curt Decker
Executive Director

cc: United States Senate