



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

July 19, 2018

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: CCD Housing Task Force letter of support for the Eleanor Smith Inclusive Home Design Act of 2019

Dear Representative Schakowsky:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force write to express our strong support for the Eleanor Smith Inclusive Home Design Act of 2019. By requiring newly constructed single-family houses and townhouses that are built with federal assistance to include a minimum standard of visitability, this important legislation will advance the rights of people with disabilities toward full community integration.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for Federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The CCD Housing Task Force works with Congress and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to increase access to decent, safe, affordable and accessible housing for all people with disabilities and to protect the rights guaranteed under the Fair Housing Act.

People with disabilities should be able to visit friends, family, and coworkers without worrying that architectural barriers will exclude them from this important aspect of everyday life. Visitability is a design concept that allows people with disabilities to be a part of their neighborhoods and communities by integrating a minimum level of accessibility in housing units that are not covered by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Although some communities have adopted laws that fill this gap by requiring visitability, the majority of newly constructed single-family houses and townhouses are not covered. Action is needed at the federal level to increase the number of visitable housing units.

The Eleanor Smith Inclusive Home Design Act will significantly benefit people with disabilities across the United States. We commend your leadership in pursuing visitability legislation to advance the civil rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. We look forward to working in

partnership with you to ensure passage of this important bill.

Sincerely,

American Association of People with Disabilities
American Civil Liberties Union
American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Autism Society
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Paralyzed Veterans of America
The Arc of the United States
United Spinal Association