**Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) Program Inclusion Act**

**One Pager**

**Background:** In 2002, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The law acknowledges the unique obstacles people with disabilities face at the polls, and authorizes Protection and Advocacy for Voting Accessibility (PAVA) program funding. The PAVA program is administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Community Living (ACL) Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and awards funding to Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems across the country that help individuals with disabilities to access the ballot. Examples of work PAVA funds support include, but are not limited to, providing disability training to poll workers, distributing resources on how to conduct an accessible campaign, maintaining voting hotlines, and examining polling places for accessibility. There are a total of 57 P&As located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. territories (U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) and American Samoa) and there is an American Indian Consortium, also known as the Native American Disability Law Center.

**The Problem:** Like other P&As, the issues the Native American Disability Law Center and the Northern Marianas P&A address includes civil rights, education, health care, and access to public and private services for individuals with disabilities, but unlike other P&As they are currently not eligible for PAVA funding. All 57 P&As receive [Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) funding](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/about-acl/2021-04/PAAT-2021.pdf), but [P&As who received PAVA funding](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/about-acl/2021-04/PAVA-2021.pdf) do not include the Northern Marianas P&A and the Native American Disability Law Center. As a result of an interpretation of the 2002 HAVA law, the Native American Disability Law Center and the Northern Marianas P&A are excluded from PAVA funds because they are not considered “states” under HAVA.

**The Solution:** **The PAVA Program Inclusion Act** fixes this oversight without changing the overall authorization level or other elements of the PAVA program (it won’t score). Specifically, this legislation makes the Northern Marianas P&A and the Native American Disability Law Center eligible for PAVA funding. Incredibly, the bill would not affect annual PAVA funding levels for nearly 80 percent of P&As. Only 12 P&As would see their PAVA funding change by 4.3 percent, and these same 12 P&As have all endorsed the PAVA Program Inclusion Act. Should this bill be enacted, the Northern Marianas P&A and the Native American Disability Law Center would each receive a little over $49,000 in annual PAVA funding, compared to the average annual PAVA funding award of over $115,000 that each of the 55 P&As currently receive.

**Support:** The National Disability Rights Network, the Native American Disability Law Center, as well as all 57 P&A systems across the country have endorsed this bill (see below list). The Navajo Nation, the Southern Ute Tribe, and the San Juan County Commission in Utah also testified on behalf of the bill in the 116th Congress.

AK Disability Law Center of Alaska

AL Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP)

AR Disability Rights Arkansas, Inc.

AS Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

AZ Arizona Center for Disability Law

CA Disability Rights California

CO Center for Legal Advocacy d/b/a Disability Law Colorado

CT Disability Rights Connecticut

DC University Legal Services/Disability Rights

DE Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

FL Disability Rights Florida

GA Georgia Advocacy Office

GU Guam Legal Services Corporation-Disability Law Center

HI Hawaii Disability Rights Center

IA Disability Rights Iowa

ID Disability Rights Idaho

IL Equip for Equality

IN Indiana Disability Rights / Indiana Protection & Advocacy Services

KS Disability Rights Center of Kansas

KY Kentucky Protection & Advocacy

LA Advocacy Center

MA Disability Law Center

MD Disability Rights Maryland

ME Disability Rights Maine

MI Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc.

MN Minnesota Disability Law Center

MO Missouri Protection & Advocacy Services

MP Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System

MS Disability Rights Mississippi

MT Disability Rights Montana

NA Native American Disability Law Center

NC Disability Rights North Carolina

ND North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project

NE Disability Rights Nebraska (formerly Nebraska Advocacy Services)

NH Disability Rights Center - NH

NJ Disability Rights New Jersey

NM Disability Rights New Mexico

NV Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center

NY Disability Rights New York

OH Disability Rights Ohio

OK Oklahoma Disability Law Center, Inc.

OR Disability Rights Oregon

PA Disability Rights Pennsylvania

PR Executive Office of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

RI Disability Rights Rhode Island

SC Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.

SD Disability Rights South Dakota d/b/a South Dakota Advocacy Services

TN Disability Rights Tennessee

TX Disability Rights Texas

UT Disability Law Center

VA Disability Law Center of Virginia

VI Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands

VT Disability Rights Vermont

WA Disability Rights Washington

WI Disability Rights Wisconsin

WV Disability Rights of WV

WY Wyoming Protection & Advocacy System, Inc.