

Rights Task Force Annual Report 2019

Brief Task Force Description:

The Rights Task Force advocates on a wide variety of matters involving the civil rights of individuals with disabilities. The Task Force's vision is driven by the four key goals for people with disabilities set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

Top three issues the Task Force worked on in 2019. Issue 1:

Preserving and protecting the ADA. We worked to preserve the ADA, including staving off any movement of the ADA notification/website bill or introduction of other bills or damaging regulatory action. We did strategic meetings with House and Senate offices, organized a briefing concerning the ADA's importance and the concerns raised by notification bills and bills limiting website access enforcement, and other advocacy.

Top three issues the Task Force worked on in 2019. Issue 2:

Stopping the false labeling of people with psychiatric disabilities as violent. We worked to educate members of Congress and the public that psychiatric disability is not a predictor of gun violence. Following the President's comments after mass shootings last summer, we have advocated to prevent legislation that would inappropriately blame people with psychiatric disabilities for gun violence. House and Senate briefings are planned for February.

Top three issues the Task Force worked on in 2019. Issue 3:

Joint work with the Housing Task Force. We worked with the Housing Task Force on a number of rights-related issues, as there have been particular attacks on disability rights in the housing context, including efforts to roll back the 'affirmatively furthering fair housing' regulations and tools, to dramatically weaken disparate impact liability under the Fair Housing Act, and to restrict the rights to use service and assistance animals in housing.

Top three issues the Task Force anticipates working on in 2020. Issue 1:

ADA 30. We will launch activities around the 30th anniversary of the ADA, using the opportunity to educate congressional offices about the key civil rights protected by the ADA and other disability rights laws and their importance in the lives of people with disabilities. Among other things, we will be organizing a formal congressional briefing about the ADA as well as a series of informal congressional briefings or convenings on various timely disability rights topics.

Top three issues the Task Force anticipates working on in 2020. Issue 2:

Preserving rights and seeking opportunities to advance ADA and Rehabilitation Act rights. In addition to fighting the onslaught of efforts to weaken civil rights, we plan to make a significant effort to identify and pursue opportunities to advance rights in the current environment—for example, ADA/504 protections against disability-based discrimination in organ transplantation.

Top three issues the Task Force anticipates working on in 2020. Issue 3:

Improving the enforcement process. We plan to develop an initiative to seek information through FOIA concerning the enforcement of the ADA and other laws and use it to advocate for improvements.

Task Force Meeting Day:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First week of the month	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Second week of the month	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Third week of the month	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fourth week of the month	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Task Force Meeting Time:

1:30 pm

Task Force Co-Chairs (list for 2020 if already known, 2019 if not).

2019. Heather Ansley (Paralyzed Veterans of America), Jennifer Mathis (Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law), Kelly Buckland (National Council on Independent Living), Sam Crane (Autistic Self Advocacy Network)