

Rights Task Force Annual Report 2020

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.

First of Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2020 *

We advocated for rights-related measures in the various COVID relief packages, including expansion of home and community-based services to enable people with disabilities to transition out of and be diverted from institutions, data collection concerning COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths of people with disabilities by setting, and accessible testing sites, and ensuring that ADA liability shields were not included.

Second of Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2020 *

Following a meeting with the chair of the Leadership Conference's Justice Reform Task Force, we developed a statement of principles for policing reform that addresses discrimination against people with disabilities and particularly disabled people of color. We used those principles to advocate with respect to various policing reform bills, including those introduced by Rep. Porter and Senators Van Hollen and Casey.

Third of Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2020 *

We advocated with the HHS Office for Civil Rights to issue a guidance document laying out how the ADA and other disability rights laws apply to crisis standards of care and wrote a letter describing key types of policies that would violate the ADA, Section 504, and Section 1557.

First of Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2021 *

We plan to work closely with various congressional offices on policing reform bills that will be reintroduced, and to educate congressional staff about the concerns of the disability community with respect to policing and the types of policies that we would like to see.

Second of Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2021 *

We plan to advocate with DOJ Civil Rights Division to strengthen its ADA enforcement and enforce in new areas including policing, needless incarceration, and medical discrimination, and issue guidance on particular issues including discharging and diverting people with disabilities from institutions during COVID-19, policing, needless incarceration, and voting rights.

Third of Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2021 *

We will advocate for Congress to pass additional COVID relief, including much of what was left out of the relief packages that have passed thus far.

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 *

Time

01 : 30 PM ▼

Task Force Co-Chairs (list for 2021, if known; otherwise, list for 2020) *

for 2020: Jennifer Mathis, Kelly Buckland, Allison Nichol, Steve Lieberman, Samantha Crane