

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2020

## VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

President-elect Joseph R. Biden  
Biden-Harris Transition  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris  
Biden-Harris Transition  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris:

I write in support of appointing Andrés J. Gallegos to be Chair of the National Council on Disability (NCD) on day one of the Biden-Harris administration.

Congress established NCD as an independent Federal agency, with the mission of advising the President, Congress and Federal agencies on all policies, programs, practices and procedures that protect the rights and liberties of the 61 million people with disabilities living in our Nation. Elevating Mr. Gallegos to lead NCD would advance the Biden-Harris campaign's important commitment to achieve full inclusion of people with disabilities in policy development and implementation.

Mr. Gallegos is the former chairman of the Board of Directors for Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago, Chicago's center for independent living. In addition to a long history of service and advocacy on behalf of the disability community, recognized with numerous awards and accolades, Mr. Gallegos served honorably in the United States Air Force for 14 years. Mr. Gallegos practices law in Chicago, Illinois, providing advice and counsel on matters relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and State and local laws. At my recommendation, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer appointed Mr. Gallegos to serve on NCD in February 2018.

The Biden-Harris administration can signal a renewed and focused commitment to the disability community by prioritizing swift appointments to critical leadership positions, such as the NCD Chair. In moving to elevate Mr. Gallegos to lead NCD on day one, the Biden-Harris administration will send a clear message that it values—and will seek out—the voices of people with disabilities as it formulates policies and implements programs across the Federal Government. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator