

Disability Rights Groups React to Premature Scheduling of Brett Kavanaugh Confirmation Hearing

Washington, DC, August 13, 2018--Today, the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the Center for Public Representation, the National Disability Rights Network, and the Autistic Self Advocacy Network issued the following statement responding to the announcement that the Senate Judiciary Committee will proceed with a confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh on September 4, 2018:

"The confirmation of a Supreme Court Justice will affect the lives of all Americans, including those with disabilities, for many years to come. It is critical that the Senate exercise its constitutional responsibility to provide advice and consent in the nomination process. Yesterday's decision to schedule hearings when only a miniscule fraction of the relevant documents concerning Judge Kavanaugh's White House service under President George W. Bush have been produced--and the National Archives has indicated that its review of these documents will not be complete until October--makes a mockery of the process for selecting the life-tenured justices of our nation's highest court. The scheduling of a hearing with so little transparency is a far cry from how any Supreme Court confirmation process has been conducted in recent memory, and would prevent a meaningful selection process. The Senate and the American people are entitled to understand Judge Kavanaugh's views on important and controversial issues on which he worked during his White House tenure, such as proposals to convert the Medicaid program into a block grant. People with disabilities have a great deal at stake with this nomination, including their health care, their autonomy, and their lives. The confirmation process must proceed with integrity."

The [Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#) is a national non-profit legal advocacy organization that advances the rights of individuals with mental disabilities. Through litigation, policy advocacy, education and training, the Center promotes equal opportunities for people with mental disabilities in all aspects of life, including community living, employment, education, housing and other areas.

The [Center for Public Representation](#) (CPR) is a national disability advocacy organization committed to protecting and advancing the rights of people with disabilities. CPR uses legal strategies, systemic reform initiatives, and policy advocacy to enforce civil rights, expand opportunities for inclusion and full community participation, and empower people with disabilities to exercise choice in all aspects of their lives.

The [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#) (ASAN) was established in 2006 to advance the principles of the disability rights movement with regard to autism. ASAN supports the right of autistic people to enjoy equal access, rights, and opportunities, and empowers autistic individuals to take control of their own lives. ASAN provides a voice for autistic people to be heard in policy debates, and improves public perceptions of autism through education and advocacy.

The [National Disability Rights Network](#) (NDRN) is the nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Nationwide Network of Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems and the Client Assistance Programs (CAP) for individuals with disabilities. Collectively, the Network is the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.