



PUBLIC POLICY CHANGES

RECOMMENDED FOR CORONAVIRUS

DISABILITY PARTY

(Andrew U. D. Straw, Founder)

APRIL 5, 2020

Fear of infection should drive many public policies that were stifled in lack of imagination and stubborn extroversion prior to the outbreak of the Coronavirus in 2020.

WORK

Any job that can be done from home must be done at home. Communications can happen so easily over the Internet and all “ghost employment” nonsense excuses need to go in the trash can. We will likely find that more productive time is spent working at home without distractions than working in an office with constant distractions just because 75% of all people are extroverts and can’t stop talking.

DEMOCRACY

All elections must be conducted by postal mail ballots, as some states in the US already do. There is no reason whatsoever to have any physical polling place. This technology is as old as the USA itself and the

only reason we don't have postal ballots universally in the USA is because some political parties do better with low turnout. This policy needs to happen before any other elections take place. Not one American should die because an old polling technology refuses to go.

Gathering signatures in person must go also. This is where the virus meets the election.

BENEFITS

Getting a Social Security or unemployment or any other benefit should be done online and not in any office anywhere. The technology has been available for decades but this change has not taken place because extroverts find it difficult to think without talking to someone face-to-face. Extroverts will have to adjust to everyone else's safety and get their fix of extroversion somewhere other than an office environment.

COURTS

All court filings by attorneys and *pro se* litigants must be allowed either by email or e-filing. Not a single piece of physical paper must ever be submitted to a court again. All of the resistance to allowing e-filing and e-signatures by non-attorneys must end immediately. It is more

important for people to be safe than to have a physical document for judges and court staff to touch.

The U.S. Supreme Court and all lower courts, state and federal, must hold their oral arguments online and no one must be forced to participate in person ever again. Teleconferencing software is ubiquitous and if the Court wants, it can pay for an iPhone app with biometrics to prove who is using it.

There must be a concerted effort to address courts that have proven their hostility to disability rights. Every U.S. Court of Appeals that demonstrates a hostility to disability rights, disabled lawyers, or uses frivolous as a means to accomplish those backwards attitudes must be attacked and reformed by Congress. A circuit that discriminates must be dismantled via legislation and its states placed in other circuits. A district that discriminates must be similarly dealt with by the democratically elected Congress. No court, state or federal, must be allowed to continue with discrimination and interference with the disability rights agenda.

ACCESSIBLE TECH

All public agencies, any branch of government, and all work places must create and use advanced technology that makes every aspect of every part of society accessible to disabled citizens. Anyone on a public benefit who is disabled should have access to the latest iPhone at no cost. The federal government should pay for this and any other tech needed for a disabled person to function at their own desired level.

FOOD / HOUSING / MEDICAL INSURANCE / MINIMUM INCOME

Disability Party does not believe in letting disabled people suffer in poverty or without essential services. Every disabled person should have a SNAP food stamps debit card with at least **\$300 per month** in benefits. Another debit card with Visa or Mastercard coverage should be available to pay for the cost of a **1-bedroom apartment** at the prevailing rate in the area. **Medicare Parts A/B/D** should be available to any disabled person without any wait. No disabled person should be forced to use Medicaid, which is for poor people. Helping disabled people is not welfare. It is protecting human rights. Finally, every disabled person suffers and does not need poverty to inflict even more suffering. The federal government should provide a **minimum monthly income payment of \$2,000 per**

disabled person. If someone has an income such as a military pension or VA benefit, this monthly income will boost that income up to \$2,000 per month. The goal is to make sure everyone with a disability reaches that level.

DISCRIMINATION / RETALIATION

A new and independent federal agency will accept ADA complaints and will investigate and prosecute all ADA violations. The ADA will be expanded to cover federal agencies and any person who discriminates. All immunities will be removed. Further, this agency will prosecute a new criminal law against disability discrimination under Title 18. There will be NO ding letters saying this agency chooses not to act. Every complaint will get a *bona fide* and thorough investigation. Congress will pay for it. All civil and criminal violations will go through a new national court under Article I of the U.S. Constitution. Any ADA cases at a district or circuit court may be removed to this new national court on disability issues. People with disabilities have been injured every time there was a national emergency and this virus outbreak will be no different. We must dedicate ourselves to disability human rights.

OTHER POLICIES TO ADVANCE DISABILITY RIGHTS

There are a number of policies that need to be implemented to oppose institutional discrimination. See: <http://reform.andrewstraw.com>

The National Council on Disability must be directed to evaluate all state laws that are still on the books that discriminate and treat disabled individuals as less than able people. All state laws and rules that prevent disabled lawyers from aggressively using the ADA and getting admitted to the bar and in law school admissions must be reviewed and dealt with. Disabled lawyers are to disabled people as Thurgood Marshall was to black Americans.

The ABA must collect information on disability in law school admissions, just like it does for gender and race. Disabled parents must have parenting time rights ironclad in the law. Disability and health privacy must be protected. No ADA coordinator may retaliate.

These principles are not negotiable.