

SDM in the National Agenda!

Vic Calise, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, and a member of our Advisory Council, recently called our attention to President-Elect Biden's Disability Plan, which begins by celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (see Good News [7/31/2020]) while also highlighting the importance of choice, so important to us at SDMNY, stating that

"there is much more work to do in order to ensure that all people with disabilities are able to participate fully in our communities and *enjoy the same kinds of choices* and opportunities that many Americans take for granted."

Many critical issues are covered in the Plan, including increased funding for community-based services, intended to further compliance with the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision (see Good News [9/25/2020]). But what really stood out was this:

"Direct the Department of Justice to review guardianship laws with an eye toward ensuring that citizens with disabilities are able to exercise self-determination and promote... viable alternatives to guardianship... including supported decision-making"

Thanks, President-Elect Biden, for understanding, valuing and supporting what we're doing. And thanks too to our friend and colleague, Commissioner Calise.



Commissioner Vic Calise at an SDMNY signing ceremony, 12/17/18