



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CCD Technology and Telecommunications Task Force Annual Report for 2016

2016 ACTIVITIES

Over 2016, the task force was active and met every month discussing topics of interest and actions the task force should take. This year was spent working on issues such as digital accessibility issues in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and in the Higher Education Act. Additionally, the Task Force addressed CMS issues around speech generating devices, Complex Rehabilitation Technology legislation, and meeting with Hill staff about the task force's priorities. The task force weighed in on funding issues that impact resources for assistive technology, specifically the Assistive Technology (AT) Act. The task force drafted several letters to the House and the Senate pertaining to FY2016 funding and many letters regarding regulations around ESSA.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- The task force plans to host a Capitol Hill briefing in 2017 in the Senate.
- Advocate for funding issues of interest
- Advocate for issues related to technology as it pertains to HEA and the Assistive Technology Act
- Continue to monitor and support legislation related to technology and telecommunication issues impacting people with disabilities.
- Continue to educate staff on Capitol Hill about the importance of accessible technology and telecommunications for people with disabilities

CO-CHAIRS IN 2016:

Audrey Busch - Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)

Eric Buehlmann - National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

Mark Richert - American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

Michael Brogioli, RESNA

Sara Rosta/Leif Brierley, Perkins School for the Blind