



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

## **CCD Technology and Telecommunications Task Force Annual Report for 2017**

### 2017 ACTIVITIES

Over 2017, 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 a number of high priority issues, including digital accessibility, complex rehabilitation technology (CRT), and assistive information and telecommunication technology. Additionally, the Task Force addressed 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 FY2018 appropriations. Finally, the Task Force hosted a Congressional luncheon briefing that featured panelists, both consumers and policy experts, who demonstrated how individuals with disabilities use assistive technology to achieve independence and community integration, and explained the connection to the federal government in protecting and enhancing access to that technology. The Congressional briefing also included an assistive technology expo, which allowed attendees to interact with a variety of assistive technology devices, and provided a forum for Members of Congress to speak.

### 2018 PRIORITIES

- Host a Congressional briefing in 2018 on Capitol Hill.
- Advocate for appropriations related to assistive technology and telecommunications priorities.
- Advocate for issues related to technology as it pertains to the Higher Education Act 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 information technology and telecommunications for people with disabilities.
- Protect Medicaid and Medicare as it pertains to assistive technology.

### CO-CHAIRS IN 2014:

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

Mark Richert - American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

Eric Buehlmann - National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

Leif Brierley - Perkins School for the Blind  
Michael Brogioli - RESNA