



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

January 24, 2022

The Honorable Robert Scott  
Chairman  
House Education and Labor Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Ranking Member  
House Education and Labor Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx:

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Technology and Telecommunications Task Force and the undersigned organizations, we would like to express our strong support for S. 2401, *The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Assistive Technology Act*, introduced by Senators Bob Casey (D-PA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Maggie Hassan (D-NH)(AT) , and Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and was passed out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in 2021. Further, we strongly urge the House Education and Labor Committee to take up S. 2401 and consider this bill, in its current version. It has been 17 years since the last reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act and the pandemic has made it abundantly clear the urgent need to increase the capacity of the AT Act grantees (the State and Territory Assistive Technology and Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) programs), which the reauthorization would allow. This bill has the potential to ensure that both programs can build upon the work they are conducting, that no program will endure any cuts to their current funding and would benefit people with disabilities and the aging population across all States and Territories.

AT Act programs operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and four territories, while the PAAT program operates in all those jurisdictions plus a 57 program serving the Hopi, Navajo, and San Juan Southern Paiute Nations in the Four Corners region. Both programs serve people with all types of disabilities, all ages, and in all environments (education, employment, community living and information technology). State AT programs provide a continuum of services that increase the access to, and acquisition of assistive technology through state financing activities (such as financial loans, cooperative buy, funds of last resort, etc.), device reutilization (including recycling, repair, refurbishment and device exchange), device loan/borrowing and device demonstration services. The PAAT programs conduct trainings and provide needed advocacy for families and individuals with disabilities with medical providers, schools, employers, and communities to ensure that individuals have access to the assistive technology they need.

It is long overdue that this law be refreshed and modernized, and S. 2401 does just that. We strongly urge the House to consider this bill in its current form.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of more than 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The Technology and Telecommunications Task Force focuses on national policy regarding matters of telecommunications and technology, including assistive technology, in order to help move society toward our ultimate goal of full inclusion for all people with a disability.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months as the House considers this reauthorization. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the CCD Technology and Telecommunications Task Force Co-Chairs: Eric Buehlmann, [eric.buehlmann@ndrn.org](mailto:eric.buehlmann@ndrn.org); Audrey Busch-Treussard, [audrey.busch-treussard@ataporg.org](mailto:audrey.busch-treussard@ataporg.org); or Joseph Nahra, [joseph.nahra@powerslaw.com](mailto:joseph.nahra@powerslaw.com); or Clark Rachfal, [crachfal@acb.org](mailto:crachfal@acb.org).

Sincerely,

Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
National Disability Rights Network  
Perkins School for the Blind  
American Council of the Blind  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
Assistive Technology Industry Association  
Center for Learner Equity  
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates  
CommunicationFIRST  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Printing House for the Blind  
Council of Administrators of Special Education  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
RespectAbility  
National Down Syndrome Society  
The Advocacy Institute  
TDI  
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)  
American Foundation for the Blind  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
The Arc of the United States  
Council for Learning Disabilities  
Council for Exceptional Children