



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

October 14, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, and Education
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
1016 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Technology and Telecommunications Task Force, **we are writing to ask you to support the inclusion of \$38 million in final FY 2015 budget for the Assistive Technology (AT) Act.** Funding provided through the AT Act supports programs that assure people with disabilities have access to and acquisition of the assistive technology services they need to live, work, and attend school in their communities.

As Congress works to assemble a final budget for FY 2015, the Task Force requests that the funding level of \$38 million, supported by the Senate's Labor, Health and Human Services' Appropriations Subcommittee and the House's Democratic Labor Health and Human Services' Appropriations Subcommittee, be included. The AT Act programs provide critical funding for programs that assure people with disabilities can access and acquire of the assistive technology services they need to live, work, and attend school in their communities. Fully funding the AT Act at \$38 million would allow the programs to provide the full breadth of services required by the law.

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 Telecommunications and Technology Task Force focuses on ensuring national policy on matters of telecommunications and technology, including assistive technology, helps move society toward our ultimate goal of full inclusion of all people with a disability.

We greatly appreciate that the Senate and House Democratic Labor, Health and Human Services' FY 2015 appropriations bill included \$38 million for the AT Act programs and we hope the final outcome for the FY 2015 budget solidifies this greatly needed increase. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of Assistive Technology Act,

which is so important to Americans with disabilities. We look forward to working with you in the coming months as Congress works to finalize the FY2015 appropriations process. 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; Mark Richert, 4justice@concentric.net; Audrey Busch, audrey.busch@ataporg.org; Sara Rosta, Sara.Rosta@PPSV.com or Michael Brogioli, mbrogioli@resna.org.

Sincerely,

Eric Buehlmann, National Disability Rights Network

Mark Richert, American Foundation for the Blind

Audrey Busch, Association for Assistive Technology Act Programs

Sara Rosta, Perkins

Michael Brogioli, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America