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Modernizing the Assistive Technology Act

WASHINGTON, DC – The Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) strongly supports S. XXX, *the 21st Century Assistive Technology Act*, introduced by United States Senators Bob Casey (D-PA), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Susan Collins (R-ME) and Kevin Cramer (R-ND). This bill would modernize and update the current law authorizing State Assistive Technology Act Programs and Protection and Advocacy Systems related to assistive technology. Given the strong and effective changes made during the 2004 reauthorization, this reauthorization refines and strengthens the components solidified in 2004, and refrains from significant changes or inclusion of additional programs. This approach to reauthorizing the Assistive Technology Act Programs is strongly supported by Assistive Technology State Grantees.

In response to the release of the *21st Century Assistive Technology Act*, Audrey Busch, Executive Director of the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) stated:

"The COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted the acute need for assistive technology and now is the time to update, modernize and expand the capacity of State Assistive Technology Act Programs throughout all 56 states and territories. The bipartisan updates modernize the Act so that individuals with disabilities will have even more opportunity to live, learn and thrive in their classrooms, workplaces, homes and communities. ATAP applauds the efforts of Senators Bob Casey (D-PA), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Susan Collins (R-ME) and Kevin Cramer (R-ND) for their dedication to reintroducing this bill together. Their strong leadership and support is appreciated by the disability and aging community."

About State AT Programs

State AT Act programs operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and four territories and are available for persons with all types of disabilities, all ages, 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.

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ATAP facilitates the coordination of state AT Programs nationally and provides technical assistance and support to its members. Established in 1997, the organization strives to enhance the effectiveness of AT Programs on the national, state, and local level.

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