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Congress Passes Bill to Modernize the Assistive Technology Act

WASHINGTON, DC – As part of the final passage of the *National Defense Authorization Act*, the U.S. Congress also agreed to reauthorize the Assistive Technology (AT) Act by including *The 21st Century Assistive Technology Act* (AT Act) in the final package. Bipartisan sponsors of the AT Act include Representatives Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), and Joe Sempolinski (R-NY) and Senators Bob Casey (D-PA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). In response to final passage, Audrey Busch-Treussard, Executive Director of the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) stated:

"ATAP appreciates all efforts undertaken by Congress to reauthorize the AT Act. There is an urgent and acute need to provide assistive technology to individuals with disabilities and through this modernization of the law, our State and Territory AT Act programs can meet growing demands within an increasingly vulnerable population. ATAP looks forward to supporting all our programs as they seek to expand their capacity to serve and support the disability and aging communities."

About AT Programs

AT Act programs, last reauthorized by Congress in 2004, operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and four territories. The AT Act Programs are available for persons with all types of disabilities, all ages, in all environments (education, employment, community living and information technology). AT Act 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 [full text of the bill](#) is available on ATAP's website.

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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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