



December 9, 2020

Mr. Henry Claypool  
President-Elect Joe Biden Transition Team

Dear Mr. Claypool:

On behalf of the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP), we want to first congratulate President-Elect Joe Biden on the election. Our organization looks forward to working with the President-Elects team in the coming years on issues that impact people with disabilities and the aging community.

As the future Biden Administration prepares to take office in 2021, ATAP would like to share our priorities for the first 100 days of the new Administration. They include:

- 1) Provide \$50 million for the Assistive Technology Act in the FY 2022 President's Budget Request in order to increase the overall capacity of the State Assistive Technology Act Programs. There are three sections within the Assistive Technology Act: Section 4 is the State AT Programs, Section 5 is the nationwide network of Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) programs, which are in every state and territory providing needed advocacy services to children and adults with disabilities, and Section 6 is the National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership. All of these activities deliver a large return on investment even with the small federal appropriation received for this program. Specifically, Section 4 formula-funded State AT Programs receives only a \$26.5 million federal investment and their return on investment is over \$63 million in savings and benefits.
- 2) Provide \$55 million for the Assistive Technology Act in any future COVID-19 stimulus package to address the programs' current front-line needs, which are between \$300,000 to \$700,000 per state, in order to accommodate remote working environments; meet the need of consumer demands for devices to combat social isolation, educational needs, and employment needs (possibly due to working remotely); and create innovative solutions to address a rapidly changing environment.

We look forward to partnering with you in the future and thank you for considering ATAP's priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Audrey Busch".

Executive Director  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs