



July 1, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
Senator  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
Senator  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey  
Senator  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Dingell  
Representative  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Brown, Casey, Hassan, and Representative Dingell,

On behalf of the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP), we welcome the opportunity to comment on the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Access Act. ATAP represents 54 State and Territory Assistive Technology Programs formula funded under Section 4 of the Assistive Technology (AT) Act. State and Territory Assistive Technology (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 in every community that increase the access to, and acquisition of assistive technology, including 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.

We welcome the strong interest of your offices in expanding home and community-based services for people with disabilities and older adults, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the discussion draft of the HCBS Access Act (HAA). Below are three recommendations.

**Recommendation 1:**

Section 2. Purpose

INSERT –

**(12) To ensure full range of assistive technology services and supports are provided for people with disabilities.**

**Recommendation 2:**

Section 3. REQUIRING COVERAGE OF HOME AND COMMUNITY<sup>14</sup> BASED SERVICES UNDER THE MEDICAID <sup>15</sup> PROGRAM

(2) Services Specified

(A)



INSERT --“(xiv) Necessary home modifications and assistive technology INSERT – “along with assistive technology support and services”, including those which substitute for human assistance.

**Recommendation 3:**

Section 3. REQUIRING COVERAGE OF HOME AND COMMUNITY<sup>14</sup> BASED SERVICES UNDER THE MEDICAID 15 PROGRAM

(2) Services Specified

‘(B) SPECIFICATION OF SERVICES. – INSERT STATE AND TERRITORY AT PROGRAMS

‘(bb) Representatives of beneficiary-led disability rights organizations, disability organizations representing families and providers, aging organizations, the Protection and Advocacy system, the Centers for Independent Living, health care providers, the National Association of Medicaid Directors, the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, ADvancing States, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, INSERT – “Assistive Technology Act Programs”, the Administration for Community Living, and other relevant representatives from local, State, and Federal home and community-based service systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important piece of legislation. Please feel free to contact Audrey Busch, ATAP’s Executive Director, at 202.344.5674 or [audrey.busch@ataporg.org](mailto:audrey.busch@ataporg.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

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

Audrey Busch  
Executive Director  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)