



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

2009 Report of the CCD Task Force on Telecommunications and Technology

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While the Task Force met only occasionally during 2009, the Task Force and its individual members worked in collaboration with other disability groups on several key issues. The groups included coordinating with the National Council on Independent Living Task Force on Technology and the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology and other ad hoc groups working on disability technology issues.

Members worked extensively for passage of H.R. 3101, the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, introduced by Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA) on June 26, 2009. The legislation is intended to update and expand existing communications law to ensure that Internet-based telecommunications equipment and services, as well as video programming and the technologies used to access it, are usable by people with disabilities. Negotiations with leading industry groups are progressing well, and industry leaders including AT&T and Verizon have issued statements endorsing the bill.

While reauthorization of the Tech Act did not move forward this past year, the Task Force has had initial discussions about policy objectives to be achieved once reauthorization commences in earnest.

In addition, Task Force members have provided both in-person and written testimony at an array of public hearings on the development of the National Broadband Plan conducted by the Federal Communications Commission to urge the FCC to aggressively account for the needs of people with disabilities as the Commission develops a comprehensive national broadband plan.

In 2010, as efforts to push for enactment of H.R. 3101 accelerate, as Tech Act reauthorization takes shape, and as the National Broadband Plan develops, Task Force activities are expected to continue and expand.