CONSORTIUM FOR CONSTITUENTS WITH DISABILITIES

November 13, 2026

Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair, U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Dear Sen. Cruz, Sen. Cantwell, Rep. Guthrie, and Rep. Pallone:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Technology and Telecommunications Task Force write in strong support of the **Communications, Video, and Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA) (S.4322 / H.R.8327)**. We urge members of Congress to cosponsor this legislation and take action to pass the CVTA.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The Telecommunications and Technology Task Force deals with issues related to access to telecommunications and technology in education, employment, and independent living.

The CVTA would ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to the innovative communication and video programming technologies needed to participate fully in employment, education, recreation, civic life, and other parts of society. This legislation builds upon the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) of 2010 by establishing federal accessibility requirements needed to keep pace with these essential products and services as they continue to evolve.

Some of the most significant parts of the CVTA include:

- Improving systems to ensure that deaf people have equitable access to 911 emergency services;

- Requiring closed captioning and audio description for online video programming that mirrors current televised video programming captioning requirements;
- Finalizing rules that require video conferencing services to have specified accessibility features and the ability to connect with assistive technologies, including screen readers, braille displays, and hands-free and voice-control technologies;
- Expanding the National DeafBlind Equipment Distribution Program to reach more eligible people who are both deaf and blind and who would benefit from accessible communications devices; and
- Empowering the FCC to ensure that its accessibility regulations keep pace with emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality.

This legislation will strengthen existing accessibility requirements, providing people with disabilities greater access to widely used technologies and telecommunications. People who are blind, low vision, deafblind, deaf, and hard of hearing as well as people with speech, cognitive, and learning disabilities will benefit from the CVTA. According to the American Community Survey, more than 12 million people in the US have a significant hearing disability, more than 8 million have a vision disability, more than 18 million people have a cognitive disability, and more than 16 million people have an independent living disability.[i] The CDC further collects data on health and disability status that estimates that over 70 million Americans have some form of disability.[ii] All told, millions of disabled people in the US will benefit from expanded access to digital communications services, including 911, telehealth, and video programming.

Given the significant benefits of this legislation, the undersigned organizations urge Congress to pass the CVTA, to hold hearings on communications and video programming access issues, and to prioritize this issue in the next Congress. Thank you for working to create opportunities and access for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Access Ready Inc.
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Council of the Blind
American Foundation for the Blind
American Printing House for the Blind
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Assistive Technology Industry Association
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

CommunicationFIRST
Deaf Equality
Disability Belongs®
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
National Disability Institute
Perkins School for the Blind
SourceAmerica
TDIforAccess
The Advocacy Institute
United Spinal Association

CC:

Senator Deb Fischer, Chair, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media
Senator Ben Ray Luján, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media
Representative Richard Hudson, Chair, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Representative Doris Matsui, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Senator Edward Markey
Representative Debbie Dingell
Representative Brian Fitzpatrick

[i] US Census Bureau (2026). 2025 ACS 1-year Estimates Subject Table: S1810 Disability Characteristics.
[ii] CDC (July 16, 2024). CDC Data Shows Over 70 Million U.S. Adults Reported Having a Disability. https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/s0716-Adult-disability.html