



April 5, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman
US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander,

Re: Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education Act (AIMHEA)

Thanks to the support and advocacy of our St. Philip's College student Harry Staley Jr., I have been introduced to the above noted legislation. On behalf of St. Philip's College, the nation's only dual designated Historical Black College and University (HBCU) and Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), I would like to express my strong support for this initiative. One of the greatest achievements of higher education in the past two decades is the accommodation of students with disabilities. This has been made possible in large part because of the developments in technology. However, despite the advances modern technology offers in support of students with disabilities, more progress can be made.

Schools are legally required to provide equal access to students with disabilities (see sec 504, *Rehabilitation Act* and Titles II and III of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*). However, if technological developments are inaccessible their procurement by schools will not satisfy this legal requirement.

The proposed legislation delineates the specification that developers and manufacturers must meet to make their products accessible to all students, including those with disabilities. St. Philip's College fully supports this initiative. Equal access to electronic instructional materials is fundamental to the educational success of students with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Adena Williams Loston".

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.
President



April 6, 2017

The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman
US House Committee on Education and the Workforce
United States House of Representatives
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx,

Re: Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education Act (AIMHEA)

Thanks to the support and advocacy of our St. Philip's College student Harry Staley Jr., I have been introduced to the above noted legislation. On behalf of St. Philip's College, the nation's only dual designated Historical Black College and University (HBCU) and Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), I would like to express my strong support for this initiative. One of the greatest achievements of higher education in the past two decades is the accommodation of students with disabilities. This has been made possible in large part because of the developments in technology. However, despite the advances modern technology offers in support of students with disabilities, more progress can be made.

Schools are legally required to provide equal access to students with disabilities (see sec 504, *Rehabilitation Act* and Titles II and III of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*). However, if technological developments are inaccessible their procurement by schools will not satisfy this legal requirement.

The proposed legislation delineates the specification that developers and manufacturers must meet to make their products accessible to all students, including those with disabilities. St. Philip's College fully supports this initiative. Equal access to electronic instructional materials is fundamental to the educational success of students with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adena Williams Loston".

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.
President