



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

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SENT VIA EMAIL

February 24, 2017

The Honorable Phil Roe, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Courtney
United States House of Representatives
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Roe and Congressman Courtney:

The National Federation of the Blind commends you for agreeing to reintroduce the Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education (AIM High) Act in the 115th Congress. As the leading advocacy organization for blind people in the United States, the National Federation of the Blind has worked for years toward the introduction of this much-needed legislation, which will give postsecondary institutions guidance to help them meet their legal obligations to students with disabilities. This legislation will also stimulate the availability of accessible instructional materials in the higher education market, enabling blind students to benefit from the use of these ever-increasing technologies.

Currently, we know that blind students are adversely impacted by educational technologies that artificially limit students because they were designed without accessibility in mind. However, we also know that technology has the potential to expand the circle of participation to include students with disabilities when these educational tools are developed with accessibility as an integral component of the design and development process. As a past member of the Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials, whose work identified this crucial need, and a father of three, including two daughters who are blind, I am pleased to see the goal of introducing legislation to address this issue come to fruition. I applaud your leadership on this important legislative priority, and I strongly urge your colleagues to join you in supporting its swift passage.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Riccobono, President
National Federation of the Blind

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