



March 11, 2020

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott:

The National Federation of the Blind commends you for including the primary tenets of the AIM HIGH Act (H.R. 5312) as Section 9008 in the College Affordability Act (H.R. 4674). This important provision will give postsecondary institutions guidance in order to meet their legal obligations to students with disabilities. Additionally, these provisions will enable blind students to benefit from the use of ever-increasing technologies in the classroom, as well as stimulate the availability of accessible instructional materials in the higher education market.

Currently, we know that blind college students are adversely impacted by educational technologies that 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 phases.

As a past member of the Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials, whose work identified this crucial need, and a father of two blind daughters, I applaud your leadership on this initiative. The National Federation of the Blind is certain that the guidelines established by the AIM HIGH Act and Section 9008 of the College Affordability Act will level the playing field in the interactive classroom and afford students with disabilities the same educational opportunities as nondisabled students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Riccobono". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mark A. Riccobono, President
National Federation of the Blind