Dear Congressman Tiberi,

My name is Beth Debus, President of the Columbus Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio (NFB-O). Our representatives visited your office earlier this month and among other topics discussed our proposed Technology Bill of rights for the Blind , for which we are currently seeking lead sponsors and cosponsors in the House. As one of your constituents, I urge you to sign on to this important legislation as soon as it has been introduced. It mandates that consumer electronics, home appliances, kiosks, and electronic office technology and software provide user interfaces that are accessible through nonvisual means. The legislation is vital if blind Americans and those losing vision are to have access to the everyday technology that other citizens take for granted.

This legislation should:

* Mandate that all consumer electronics, home appliances, kiosks, and electronic office technology and software be designed so that blind people are able to access the same functions as sighted people by nonvisual means and with substantially equivalent ease of use.
* Create a commission within the Department of Commerce to establish standards for nonvisual accessibility of electronic devices intended for use in the home or office. Such a commission should represent all stakeholders, including:
  + organizations of the blind;
  + manufacturers of consumer electronics, home appliances, kiosks, and electronic office technology and software, or associations representing such manufacturers; and experts on universal design, electronic engineering, and related fields
  + Establish within the Department of Justice the authority to enforce the regulations promulgated by the commission established by this legislation.
* Authorize the commission to reexamine and rewrite standards periodically as consumer electronic technology continues to evolve.

Please support blind Americans by sponsoring the Technology Bill of Rights for the Blind to ensure that blind people can fully participate in all aspects of society. Increased access will lead to increased independence, increased employment, and increased tax revenue.

Thank you ,

Beth Debus, President

NFB-O Capital Chapter