



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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October 15, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Alexander:

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

Having been introduced to the above noted proposed legislation by Ramapo College student Jeremy Capati, I wish 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, to maximize participation, the products generated by technology must have accessibility built into them from the very earliest stages of development.

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 specifications that developers and manufacturers must meet to make their products accessible to all students, including those with disabilities. Ramapo College fully supports this initiative. Equal access to electronic instructional materials is fundamental to the educational success of students with disabilities

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter P. Mercer".

Peter P. Mercer LL.B., Ph.D.

cc. Jeremy Capati jcapati@ramapo.edu



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October 15, 2015

The Honorable John P. Kline
Chairman, US House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Kline:

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

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Peter P. Mercer LL.B., Ph.D.

cc. Jeremy Capati jcapati@ramapo.edu