



University of Nevada, Reno

Marc A. Johnson
President

July 11, 2016

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

Dear Senator Alexander,

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

University of Nevada, Reno student Michael Ausbun introduced me to the above noted proposed legislation. On behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno I would like to express my strong support for this initiative. One of the greatest achievements of higher education in the past two decades in 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 (sec 504 *Rehabilitation Act* and Title 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. The University of Nevada, Reno fully supports this initiative. Equal access to electronic instructional materials is fundamental to the educational success of students with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Johnson

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