



University of Nevada, Reno

Marc A. Johnson
President

October 7, 2016

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

Dear Congressman Kline,

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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