National Federation of the Blind of Delaware

Resolution 2024-01

Regarding Equal Access to the Web

WHEREAS, equal access to websites, mobile apps, and other information technology is imperative to living in today's world, impacting every area of daily life, including education, shopping, employment, entertainment, public health and safety information, and much, much more; and

WHEREAS, assistive technology used by the blind such as screen readers, screen magnification software, and refreshable Braille displays, allows the blind to gain access to information as efficiently, comfortably, and easily as the sighted; and

WHEREAS, many websites, mobile apps, and other information technology are either entirely inaccessible using assistive technology or possess significant access barriers; and

WHEREAS, existing civil rights laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act broadly mandate equally effective communication with those who are disabled, but generally, there are no clear regulations and laws regarding how websites, mobile apps, and other information technology can comply with these civil rights laws; and

WHEREAS, global standards such as the World Wide Web Consortium’s Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and the regulations promulgated pursuant to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act exist and inform owners and operators of websites, mobile apps, and other information technology how to provide their information in an accessible manner; and

WHEREAS, to ensure equal access for those who are blind, it is necessary to adopt such standards into law; and

WHEREAS, The Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act was introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives (S. 4998/H.R. 9021) on September 28, 2022, to address these issues on the Federal level; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Delaware in Convention assembled this 26th day of October in the city of Middletown, that we urge our U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative to support the Senate (S. 4998) and House (H.R. 9012) bills, and

BE IT FURTHER Resolved that we strongly urge the Delaware General Assembly to pass into law an Equal Access to the Web, Mobile Apps, and Other Information Technology Act which would incorporate into law the most recent WCAG and Section 508 standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we insist that any web accessibility Act include the full measure of relief and remedies available under law including but not limited to all economic and non-economic damages, injunctive relief, and attorney fees and costs.