Dear Senator (enter name),

As a blind constituent, I am writing to ask for your support by leaving the standard deduction for the blind in the senate bill of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Your support for this critical tax deduction provides blind individuals with the standard deduction valued at $6,350. Unfortunately, blind Americans are historically underemployed, and this bill would create an undue hardship for many blind people across the nation.

My second request is to ask you to please cosponsor S. 732, the Access Technology Affordability Act of 2017. Nearly 60 percent of blind Americans are unemployed which makes it difficult to afford since access technology continues to range from $1,000 to $6,000. The Access Technology Affordability Act provides a simple solution that will increase the availability of access technology so that blind Americans can procure these items for themselves. It establishes a refundable tax credit for blind Americans in the amount of $2,500 to be used over a 3-year period to offset the cost of access technology. Currently, there are three cosponsors on the bill, Senators Cardin and Van Hollen from Maryland and Senator Coons from Delaware.

On Thursday, November 16, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) introduced the Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education (AIM HIGH) Act (S. 2138). This legislation develops voluntary accessibility guidelines for instructional materials used in

postsecondary education. A purpose-based commission is tasked with developing

accessibility criteria for instructional materials and the delivery

systems/technologies used to access those materials. Additionally, the

commission is tasked with developing an annotated list of existing national and

international standards so that schools and developers can identify what makes a

product usable by the blind. Please help blind students of America by cosponsoring S. 2138.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me either by replying to this email or calling 813/625-1850.

Sincerely,

Your name