



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

April 3, 2015

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Technology and Telecommunications Task Force would like to submit the following comments regarding “Connecting Health and Care for the Nation: A Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap Draft Version 1.0.” The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities is a coalition of more than 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The Telecommunications and Technology Task Force focuses on ensuring national policy on matters of telecommunications and technology, including assistive technology, helps move society toward our ultimate goal of full inclusion of all people with a disability.

The Task Force commends the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology’s (HIT) work to develop this draft report. Specifically, however, the Task Force recommends the report include language that ensures HIT is fully accessible for people with disabilities. It is important that all different types of information and communications technologies (ICT) are fully accessible, including HIT, by conforming to a set of nationally accepted ICT access standards.

As you continue to finalize the Roadmap that outlines the interoperability across the HIT landscape, it is essential that the development of the health IT system be designed to ensure compatibility with an array of assistive technologies. The importance of ensuring an accessible infrastructure up front during the early development stages is easily overlooked, and therefore, we are asking for language ensuring ICT accessibility included in the final version of this report.

The CCD Technology and Telecommunications Task Force would like to meet in person to explain this issue in further detail. It is essential that accessibility issues be considered during the development of this Roadmap and incorporated during the development of a healthy HIT ecosystem.

Thank you for your consideration of these views. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the CCD Technology and Telecommunications Task Force Co-Chairs: Eric Buehlmann, eric.buehlmann@ndrn.org; Mark Richert, 4justice@concentric.net; Audrey Busch, audrey.busch@ataporg.org; Sara Rosta, sara.rosta@ppsv.com; or Michael Brogioli, mbroglioli@resna.org.

Sincerely,

Mark Richert, American Foundation for the Blind
Audrey Busch, Association for Assistive Technology Act Programs
Sara Rosta, Perkins
Michael Brogioli, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
Eric Buehlmann, National Disability Rights Network