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Mission:

To maintain and enhance a strong, effective, and efficient national network of State AT Programs which enables individuals with disabilities, service providers and others to learn about, access, and acquire AT needed for education, employment and community living.

Comments on Revision of State Grants for Assistive Technology Program – State Plan for AT OMB Approval Number 0985-0048

Submitted to OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov

Attn: OMB Desk Officer for ACL

December 11, 2017

The Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) is pleased to provide the following comments to the Office of Management and Budget regarding the review and consideration for clearance of the State Grants for Assistive Technology (AT) Program State Plan for AT, formerly known as the 664 Report. The State Plan for AT is the mandatory application process for states and territories funded under section 4 of the AT Act. ATAP represents 54 State Assistive Technology Programs and is pleased to provide comments on the proposed revision and renewal of this critical data reporting instrument.

State AT Programs are required by Section 4 (f) of the AT Act of 2004 to develop a State Plan for AT that identifies how the grantee will implement the state level and state leadership activities as required by the AT Act. The proposed new structure and format of the revised State Plan for AT will collect streamlined and meaningful data that can be analyzed and aggregated to support program improvement.

The proposed changes were developed with extensive input of those it directly impacts, State AT Program grantees. The revision process began over two years ago and grantees had multiple opportunities to discuss and make recommendations on the proposed changes. The proposed changes were reviewed during numerous meetings with our membership at national conferences and online events. There is uniform support within our membership for these revisions. Collectively our members strongly support the revision of this data collection instrument as proposed and look forward to access to aggregate data analysis derived from this data that can be used to further refine and improve all grantees.

ATAP appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments on behalf of our 54 State AT Program members who will use this updated structure to submit their next State Plan for AT. Please feel free to contact Audrey Busch, ATAP Director of Policy and Advocacy at 202.344.5674 or audrey.busch@ataporg.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Knue', written over a horizontal line.

Alan Knue
Chair