November 4, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairperson  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert “Bobby” Scott  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Yarmuth  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
204-E House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Chairwoman Murray, Chairman Scott, Chairman Sanders, and Chairman Yarmuth,

On behalf of the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) I am writing to share our support for key provisions and funding included in the Build Back Better Act (BBB) that will assist millions of individuals with disabilities obtain the proper assistive technology needed. Specifically, H.R. 5376, as reported by the House Committee on the Budget, includes $10 million for the Assistive Technology (AT) Act, and $150 billion for home and community-based services (HCBS). ATAP appreciates your dedication to ensuring the programs that directly support and help ensure independent living for millions of individuals with disabilities remains a priority in the budget reconciliation process and final bill.

AT Act Programs see the dire need to provide people with disabilities and other vulnerable individuals with life-sustaining services and supports, which includes assistive technology; the COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted these acute needs. The additional $10 million for AT Act Programs will be used to expand the capacity of programs which operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and four U.S. Territories. AT Act programs serve millions of individuals with disabilities and are available for persons with all types of disabilities, all ages, in all environments (education, employment, community living and information technology). They also provide a continuum of services that increase the access to, and acquisition of assistive technology, device reutilization (including recycling, repair, refurbishment and device exchange), device loan/borrowing and device demonstration services.
ATAP is also supportive of the $150 billion to support HCBS. These funds are essential to addressing the direct care workforce, and improving access to home-based care and long-term services and supports. Sustained, longer-term Federal support is needed to address the crisis that continues to ensue and includes an over reliance on congregate settings, underpayment of direct care workers and lack of home and community-based services for people with disabilities and older adults.

AT Act Programs stand uniquely positioned to assure caregivers find the proper AT for a person with a disability or an older adult and continue this support as the individual adjusts and incorporates the AT into their everyday life.

**Please pass the BBB as currently drafted.** The programs mentioned here, with these additional funds, have the potential to ensure that millions of individuals with a disability will have access to the assistive technology they need to attend school, work, live independently, and thrive in their community. Thank you for your esteemed leadership to serve and support people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Audrey Busch  
Executive Director  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs