

Technology and Disability Policy Highlights  

May 2018

Overview

In May, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted several waivers related to emergency communications. In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order* [**12-107**], the FCC’s Media Bureau granted requests for waivers of the audible crawl rule, permanently exempting analog-only cable systems, and temporarily waiving requirements for television broadcasters to audibly describe visual, non-textual emergency information. The FCC also granted a limited waiver of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) protocol to allow for an end-to-end test to be conducted in the State of Minnesota on June 18, 2018. The waiver was required because the rules allowing for end-to-end testing of WEA are not effective until May 2019. However, Minnesota emergency communications officials want to move up that timeline and requested temporary waiver in light of the recent large-scale emergencies.

In Wireless RERC news, comments were submitted to the FCC in response to a Public Notice *In the Matter of The Accessibility of Communications Technologies for the 2018 Biennial Report Required by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act* [**CG Docket No. 10-213**]. In anticipation of this Public Notice, we conducted a 2017 Mobile Phone Accessibility Review, preliminary results of which were reported in the submission. Additionally, the comments were informed by recently conducted focus groups on the use of “new communications technologies” by people with disabilities. The comments highlighted a perennial barrier to full access, device setup, which quite literally allows the user to gain entry to the device. This initial process needs addressing to move the needle forward on people with disabilities’ independently accessing advanced communications technologies and services.

This issue also includes news about a smart cane, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Global Accessibility Awareness Day activities, a Mobile Accommodations Solution app, the BeMyEyes app, and more.

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Regulatory Activities

# Waivers of the Audible Crawl Rule

May 25, 2018 – In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order* [**12-107**], the FCC’s Media Bureau granted requests for waivers of the audible crawl rule. A provision the *Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010* (CVAA), the rules required that visual, non-news, televised emergency information be made accessible to people with vision disabilities utilizing the secondary audio stream to present visual information aurally. The rules also required that non-textual emergency information such as maps be orally described, as well. Two petitions for a waiver of the rules were addressed, the American Cable Association’s (ACA) petition and the American Council of the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, and the National Association of Broadcasters (joint petition). Analog-only cable systems have received a permanent waiver of the rule on the basis that they do not have the equipment or financial resources to update technologies to pass though audio information via secondary audio programming. A temporary extension waving the rule for television broadcasters was granted based on assertions that the current state of the broadcasting system is not capable of capitalizing on advancements in artificial intelligence or application programming interfaces (APIs) that could facilitate the automatic recognition, tagging, and describing of dynamic images and video content. As broadcasters adopt next-generation television, development of a technical solution to comply with making dynamic, non-text-based, emergency information accessible to people that are blind or have low vision will become more viable. [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:

[Media Bureau Grants Two Petitions for Waiver of Emergency Info Rule](https://www.fcc.gov/document/media-bureau-grants-two-petitions-waiver-emergency-info-rule)

Memorandum Opinion and Order: [Docx Opens a New Window.](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-15-632A1.docx)  -- [Pdf Opens a New Window.](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-15-632A1.pdf)  -- [Txt Opens a New Window.](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-15-632A1.txt)  -- [Erratum](https://www.fcc.gov/document/media-bureau-grants-two-petitions-waiver-emergency-info-rule/erratum): [Docx](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-334123A1_Erratum.docx)

# FCC Grants a Limited Waiver for EAS and WEA Testing

May 18, 2018 – In an *Order* [**15-91; 15-94**] published in May, the FCC granted a limited waiver of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) protocol to allow for a test to be conducted in the State of Minnesota on June 18, 2018. The waiver was required because the rules allowing for end-to-end testing of WEA are not effective until May 2019. However, the Minnesota emergency communications officials want to move up that timeline and requested temporary waiver in light of the recent large-scale emergencies. They intend for the test to serve a dual purpose, emergency manager skill building and public awareness about both systems. The test will be conducted in collaboration with the State of Minnesota, the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Communication Networks as a live EAS and “end-to-end” WEA test, which will be the first time that a WEA test message reaches the public. The Order allows for the testing in Stevens County, with “participation from the surrounding counties of Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, Stearns, Swift, Pope, and Traverse, and a related test of WEA directed only to the city of Morris, Minnesota.” According to the Agency, recent events such as the volcanic activity in Hawaii have stressed the need for a responsive, national emergency network, as well as for the need for local agencies to have the familiarity and experience to deal with emergency situations should they arise. In the Order, the FCC stated that the test would “help ensure that WEA and the EAS can be effectively deployed in a coordinated manner during an emergency, and would provide alert initiators and emergency managers valuable information on how the two systems can be used together to communicate to the public.” [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:

[Read the Order](https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/05180199417275/DA-18-511A1.pdf)

[<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/05180199417275/DA-18-511A1.pdf>]

# Where Do We Go From Here?

May 9, 2018- Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn gave her final remarks as Commissioner at the First Congregational Church of Christ in Washington, D.C. Before retiring from the FCC, Commissioner Clyburn spoke about the past, present, and future challenges all U.S citizens face. The Commissioner’s civil liberties track record of service for communities in-need was apparent. Her appeal to collectivism presented the achievements of the community and the progress that was made in the U.S. over the last half-century. Commissioner Clyburn also spoke on broadband and how it has become a "critical infrastructure of this nation," likening it with the natural resources on which we all rely. Broadband, she asserted, allows for universal access for everyone and limiting this access is in line with perpetuating institutional prejudices. Her statement is particularly important for the millions of Americans living with disabilities in rural and urban areas who rely on adequate internet access for health, employment, and educational-related services.  Ultimately, she emphasized the importance of net neutrality and her concern regarding the systematic rollback of policies that benefit the public. In response to these recent changes in policy, and addressing the title of her speech, she proclaimed that the only choice is to "...Fight harder... Shout louder... strengthen our bonds" for a concerted effort of change. [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:

[Remarks of Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn- Where Do We Go From Here?](https://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2018/db0511/DOC-350642A1.pdf)

[<https://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2018/db0511/DOC-350642A1.pdf>]

Wireless RERC Updates

# Wireless RERC on the Record: Accessibility of Communications Technologies

May 3, 2018 – The Wireless RERC submitted comments to the FCC in response to their Public Notice *In the Matter of The Accessibility of Communications Technologies for the 2018 Biennial Report Required by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act* [**CG Docket No. 10-213**]. In anticipation of this Public Notice, the Wireless RERC conducted a 2017 Mobile Phone Accessibility Review (Accessibility Review/Review). The Review included mobile phone models available as of September 2017 from the top four wireless carriers, one prepaid carrier, and five Lifeline Carriers. Researchers, using the providers’ web pages as a reference, identified 214 mobile phones for evaluation. Data were collected on 24 accessibility features (or features that impact accessibility) available in each phone model. Wireless RERC comments shared the results of the Accessibility Review. Additionally, the comments were informed by recently conducted focus groups on the use of “new communications technologies” by people with disabilities. Overall, the comments indicate that the accessibility of advanced communications technologies is improving. More accessibility features are available, and many of these features are customizable (e.g., the rate of speech for voice output, vibration adjustment, font adjustment, and more). These are much-appreciated gains. However, a perennial barrier to access, device setup, which quite literally allows the user to gain entry to the device, requires addressing to move the needle forward on people with disabilities’ independently accessing advanced communications technologies and services. Following are a few specifics from the comments:

* The researchers encountered difficulty in locating information about certain features. Consumers with disabilities may experience a similar problem when comparing models and selecting a phone to purchase. While people without disabilities can compare phone models based on *preferences* alone, people with disabilities may have accessibility *requirements* for the phone to be usable by them (e.g., video calling, HAC, screen reader, AT connection).
* Of the 214 phones, 0% of devices had full, out-of-the-box accessibility. The benefit of full, out-of-the-box accessibility is that it simplifies phone selection for people with varying capabilities and functional levels. If all phones were fully accessible, then people with disabilities could select from all available models. As it stands now, people with disabilities have a more limited selection, and more research is required on the part of the consumer prior to purchase.
* Input type can raise barriers that people with various types of disabilities may encounter when attempting to use mobile phone devices both smart and non-smartphones. Many smartphones require a degree of sight and dexterity that can be a limiting factor to users.
* Various disability groups are increasingly adopting smart speakers with intelligent agents, particularly the Amazon Echo and Amazon Dot with Alexa. Consumers who are blind or who have low vision, for whom graphical interfaces may not be accessible, as well as people with dexterity or mobility-related disabilities, for whom button or touchscreen control may pose a barrier to use, have cited the voice control features of these devices as useful.
* Consumers with limited dexterity or impaired hand function, such as people with spinal cord injury or multiple sclerosis, have indicated the potential usefulness of wearables in their own lives. For example, the ability to use near-field communication for payments often simplifies what is a complex task for many users who find handling cash or cards to be difficult. However, they also have noted that complex gestures, such as multi-finger swipes, complicate their use of the devices.
* Consumers with disabilities who use wearables such as the Apple Watch discussed in great detail the effect that operating system updates may have on otherwise accessible or usable apps and menu structures for these devices. In a manner similar to smartphone system updates, users of these devices have expressed a desire to understand the effect of operating system updates on app accessibility through some means other than “trial and error.”

Additional Information:

[Read the Wireless RERC’s Comments](https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filing/1050793670093)

[<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filing/1050793670093>]

[wireless\_rerc\_comments\_2018\_cvaa\_implementation\_evaluation.pdf](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/wireless_rerc_comments_2018_cvaa_implementation_evaluation.pdf)

# In case you missed it

[*American Sign Language & Emergency Alerts: The Relationship between Language, Disability, and Accessible Emergency Messaging*](http://ijmed.org/articles/740/), authored by current and former Wireless RERC researchers, Dr. DeeDee M. Bennett, Salimah LaForce, Christina Touzet, and Kay Chiodo, was published in March 2018. The article is an abridged version of a white paper developed with funding from the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Project (IPAWS) Project Management Office. The content was inspired by the results of Wireless RERC R&D projects that identified American Sign Language (ASL) interpretations of emergency alerts as pivotal to providing equitable access to people that are Deaf and who primarily communicate using ASL.

**Abstract:** Emergency alert messages are not always completely accessible for people who are Deaf that rely on American Sign Language (ASL). ASL is a visual and conceptual language that has its own unique syntax and grammar. ASL has no roots in English and is the 3rd most taught foreign language in our colleges today. Not all individuals who are deaf rely on ASL for “clear and effective” communication. For many individuals who become hard-of-hearing or deaf later in life (late-deafened), closed captioning can provide accommodations. For individuals who are Deaf and rely on ASL as their primary language, closed captioning is not a useful means of communication because the information is being conveyed in a language most ASL users do not fully comprehend. Similarly, emergency alert messages delivered via SMS text or email can also present confusion to ASL users who may struggle to understand the written English messages. One size does not fit all; and in this case, English text as a sole means of communication is not entirely accessible for people who rely on ASL. This paper outlines the relationship between language, disability, and emergency messaging as learned from several research studies examining the accessibility of public alerts and warnings.

Additional Information:

[*American Sign Language & Emergency Alerts: The Relationship between Language, Disability, and Accessible Emergency Messaging*](http://ijmed.org/articles/740/)

[<http://ijmed.org/articles/740/>]

# Tell Us About Your Wireless Devices!

To inform the inclusive development of wireless technologies and services, the[**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Inclusive Technologies (Wireless RERC)**](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/tags/newsroom/wireless-rerc-news)is collecting data on people with disabilities’ user experiences and expectations.

Your responses will:

* Help designers and engineers make more accessible wireless devices and services for people with disabilities.
* Inform recommendations to better ensure inclusive policies and practices.

Take the survey online at <http://bit.ly/2018UserNeedsSurvey>

Or

Scan the QR Code below to open the survey on your mobile device:



To take the survey by telephone contact:

Kenneth Goughnor

404-385-4611

Other Items of Interest

# WeWALK Smart Cane

May 24, 2018- Students at the Young Guru Academy, based in Turkey, collaborated with Vestel to develop a new smart cane technology intended to aid people with visual disabilities. The handle of the cane houses the technology, and the post of the cane is business as usual (tap or glide to detect ground level obstacles and boundaries). With the smart handle, however, detection of head-level obstructions are now possible, alerting the user with vibrotactile feedback to move either to the left or right to avoid hazards such as signs and tree branches. The handle also includes LED lights for nighttime use by users with low vision. WeWalk has built-in speakers and can connect to supported smartphone apps such as Google Maps and Amazon Alexa. The battery life is approximately 5 hours and is charged via a USB port. [Source: Ben Coxworth, New Atlas]

Additional Information:

[WeWALK aims to take white canes to another level](https://newatlas.com/wewalk-blind-smart-cane/54761/)

<https://newatlas.com/wewalk-blind-smart-cane/54761/>

# America’s Workforce: Empower All

May 23, 2018 – National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) occurs annually in October. The 2018 NDEAM theme is *America’s Workforce: Empower All*. The theme is intended to highlight the galvanizing force that employment has on families and society. Alexander Acosta, U.S. Secretary of Labor, stated, “A workforce that empowers everyone is good for job seekers as well as job creators. Over the past year, the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities has significantly declined. Continued steady job creation will provide even more opportunities for all Americans to get hired and provide for their families.” The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) hopes that the early announcement of the theme will encourage organizations across the nation to plan NDEAM activities that will raise awareness about best practices and accessible workplace technologies, and initiate policy and practice actions that advance the hiring and retention rates of people with disabilities. [Source: U.S. DOL]

Additional Information:

[U.S. Department of Labor Announces 2018 Theme For National Disability Employment Awareness Month](https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20180523)

[<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20180523>]

# Global Accessibility Awareness Day 2018

May 17, 2018 – Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) 2018 was celebrated at live in-person and online events across the nation and around the world on May 17, 2018. This year marked the 7th annual GAAD. This global event was inspired by a 2011 blog post by Joe Devon, [CHALLENGE: Accessibility know-how needs to go mainstream with developers. NOW.](https://mysqltalk.wordpress.com/2011/11/27/challenge-accessibility-know-how-needs-to-go-mainstream-with-developers-now/) Jennison Asuncion, Digital Accessibility Leader, read the blog and accepted the challenge. He contacted Joe, and together they created GAAD. Space does not allow for sharing details of all of the 2018 GAAD events, but below are a few highlights from industry:

* Apple stores hosted 69 accessibility workshops in their stores across the U.S. and in international markets.
* Microsoft released the short film [Empower every person: reimagining accessibility](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEvQsydG2oQ).
* AT&T and Aira announced the extension of their agreement, making AT&T the global data provider for Aira’s smart glasses for blind and low vision users.

In addition, universities, governments, businesses of all sizes, and organizations hosted public and private events including parades, workshops, webinars, film viewings, and more, all in an effort to raise awareness and mobilize the global community towards achieving worldwide accessibility. If you missed this year’s events, GAAD 2019 will be on May 16th. To stay connected visit <http://globalaccessibilityawarenessday.org/>. [Source: GAAD]

Additional Information:

[Global Accessibility Awareness Day Website](http://globalaccessibilityawarenessday.org/)

[<http://globalaccessibilityawarenessday.org/>]

# Mobile Accommodation Solution

May 17, 2018 - The Mobile Accommodation Solution (MAS) app, developed with funding from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, facilitates employer management of workplace accommodations requests. The MAS app was a collaborative effort between West Virginia University’s Center for Disability Inclusion, the Job Accommodation Network (JAN), and IBM. Now available for iOS and Android, the MAS app is reportedly the first of its kind case management app for workplace accommodations. “With a solid business case, employers are increasingly seeking and retaining talented employees with disabilities,” said Dr. DJ Hendricks, Director of CDI. “The Mobile Accommodation Solution provides employers with the technology and tools needed to effectively hire and retain members of this still largely untapped talent pool.” [Source: Center for Digital Inclusion and JAN]

Additional Information:

[Read the press release. (.doc)](https://askjan.org/landingpage/MobileAccommodationSolution/PressRelease.doc)

[<https://askjan.org/landingpage/MobileAccommodationSolution/PressRelease.doc>]

Get the app:

[iOS App Store](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mobile-accommodation-solution/id1291959434)

[<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mobile-accommodation-solution/id1291959434>]

[Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.askjan.mobile.android)

[<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.askjan.mobile.android>]

# Be My Eyes Hits the 1 Million Volunteer Milestone

May 17, 2018- Be My Eyes, a mobile app that allows for volunteers to offer auditory services to help people with vision disabilities navigate their environments and perform tasks, has reached a milestone of one million volunteers since its inception in 2015. The volunteers that have downloaded the app aid people living with visual disabilities by serving as a temporary source of vision via a live video feed. According to the press release, the average call lasts only two minutes and has advanced the “micro-volunteering” concept. This app is not only a practical help with tasks such as mail sorting or selecting an outfit, but it has also helped the volunteers better understand the lived experiences of people with visual disabilities. [Source: BeMyEyes]

Additional Information:

[Press Release - Be My Eyes Hits the 1 Million Volunteer Mark- Media Organization Source](https://www.bemyeyes.com/newsroom/be-my-eyes-hits-the-1-million-volunteer-mark)

[<https://www.bemyeyes.com/newsroom/be-my-eyes-hits-the-1-million-volunteer-mark>]

# FingerPing, a Wearable Prototype That Recognizes Hand Gestures

May 11, 2018 – Researchers at Georgia Tech, led by doctoral student, Cheng Zhang, have developed a proof-of-concept device called FingerPing which can recognize hand gestures. The prototype consists of a ring worn around the thumb and a smartwatch-like wristband and uses acoustic “chirps” that the system recognizes as corresponding to distinct hand poses. Speaking to its use of sound to detect and define hand positions, Zhang said, "The injected sound from the thumb will travel at different paths inside the body with different hand postures. For instance, when your hand is open, there is only one direct path from the thumb to the wrist. Any time you do a gesture where you close a loop, the sound will take a different path, and that will form a unique signature."

The system can recognize twenty-two different micro finger gestures using the twelve bones of the fingers, allowing for gestures such as counting one through ten using American Sign Language. FingerPing was presented at the 2018 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI). The paper is titled *FingerPing: Recognizing Fine-grained Hand Poses Using Active Acoustic On-body Sensing* (Cheng Zhang, Qiuyue Xue, Anandghan Waghmare, Ruichen Meng, Sumeet Jain, Yizeng Han, Xinyu Li, Kenneth Cunefare, Thomas Ploetz, Thad Starner, Omer Inan, Gregory Abowd). [Source: Ben Coxworth, New Atlas; David Mitchell, Georgia Tech News Center]

Additional Information:

[Wearable Ring, Wristband Allow Users to Control Smart Tech With Hand Gestures](http://www.news.gatech.edu/2018/05/11/wearable-ring-wristband-allow-users-control-smart-tech-hand-gestures)

[<http://www.news.gatech.edu/2018/05/11/wearable-ring-wristband-allow-users-control-smart-tech-hand-gestures>]

[Wearable tech pings your fingers to recognize hand gestures](https://newatlas.com/fingerping-hand-gesture-recognition/54609/)

[<https://newatlas.com/fingerping-hand-gesture-recognition/54609/>]

Upcoming Events

# EAS and WEA Webinar for State and Local Officials

The FCC’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Public Safety Homeland Security Bureau will host a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) and Emergency Alert System (EAS) webinar on June 21, 2018, at 2:00 pm. The content covered will include how EAS and WEA work, who can become an alert originator, and geographic targeting, among other topics relevant to state and local use of these emergency messaging systems.

Additional Information:

[Webinar Registration](https://fccevents.webex.com/fccevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e204c1227f16818505160288eca493190)

[<https://fccevents.webex.com/fccevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e204c1227f16818505160288eca493190>]

Public Notice: [Docx Opens a New Window.](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-18-537A1.docx) --[Pdf Opens a New Window.](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-18-537A1.pdf) --[Txt](https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-18-537A1.txt)

# M-enabling Summit

The 7th Annual M-enabling Summit will convene June 11 through June 13, 2018, in Washington, D.C. This year’s theme is *Accessible and Assistive Technologies Innovations: New Frontiers for Independent Living*. Summit attendees can expect to hear presentations and visit exhibitors that address next-generation connected devices and services including artificial intelligence, augmented reality, digital assistants, autonomous vehicles, and more.

Additional Information:

[M-Enabling Summit Web Page](http://www.m-enabling.com/)

[<http://www.m-enabling.com/>]

# National Emergency Number Association 2018 Conference and Expo

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) 2018 conference will convene June 16 through 21, 2018 in Nashville, TN. NENA's annual conference is designed to equip attendees with ideas and strategies for overcoming daily obstacles through the provision of experts’ and peers’ experiences. The Expo will feature cutting-edge products and services for 911, specifically, and public safety, in general.

Additional Information:

[NENA Conference Web Page](http://www.nena.org/?page=NENA2018)

[<http://www.nena.org/?page=NENA2018>]

**43rd Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop**

The 2018 Natural Hazards Workshop will convene from July 8 to July 11, 2018, in Broomfield, CO. This year’s theme, [*Twenty Questions: Looking for Answers to Reduce Disaster Risk*](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018/theme), will focus on critical areas that need addressing to reduce the human toll of disasters. Some session titles include [Moonshots: Ideas to Change the World of Hazards and Disasters](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018/session/moonshots-ideas-to-change-the-world-of-hazards-and-disasters), [Cultural Competence: Initiatives to Reduce Disaster Vulnerability](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018/session/cultural-competence-initiatives-to-reduce-disaster-vulnerability), [Root Causes: Social Inequality and Vulnerability in Disaster](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018/session/root-causes-social-inequality-and-vulnerability-in-disaster), [Learning Our Lessons: Integrating Disaster Research and Practice](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018/session/learning-our-lessons-integrating-disaster-research-and-practice), and many more.

Additional Information:

[Natural Hazards Workshop Web page](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018)

[<https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018>]

# RESNA's 2018 Annual Conference

RESNA's 2018 Annual Conference will convene from July 11 to 15, 2018 in Arlington, VA. The conference will have presentations on assistive technology trends in cognitive and sensory impairments, computer applications and communications, emerging technology, job and environmental accommodations, public policy and advocacy, among others. In addition to the presentations, there will be an exhibit hall and networking opportunities.

Additional Information:

[2018 RESNA Conference Web page](https://www.resna.org/news-events/annual-meeting/resna-2018-annual-conference)

[<https://www.resna.org/news-events/annual-meeting/resna-2018-annual-conference>]

**Technology and Disability Policy Highlights,** May 2018



The Technology and Disability Policy Highlights (TDPH) is a monthly newsletter that reports on national public policy events and tracks emerging issues of interest to individuals with disabilities, researchers, policymakers, industry, and advocacy professionals. The Wireless RERC is a research center that promotes universal access to wireless technologies and explores their innovative applications in addressing the needs of people with disabilities. For more information on the Wireless RERC, please visit our website at [<http://www.wirelessrerc.org>]. For further information on items summarized in this report, or if you have items of interest that you would like included in future editions, please contact this edition’s editors Salimah LaForce [[salimah@cacp.gatech.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csalimah%5COneDrive%20-%20Georgia%20Institute%20of%20Technology%5CwiRERC_2016%20-%202021%5CTDPH%5CApril%202017%5Csalimah%40cacp.gatech.edu)], Kenneth Goughnour [kenneth@cacp.gatech.edu], or Andrew Garcia [andrew@cacp.gatech.edu].

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