



April 8, 2024

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
c/o Jasmine Masand  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Braun  
c/o Jacob Chebowski  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: ITEM Coalition Support for S. 3621, the Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act of 2024**

Dear Senators Hassan and Braun:

The undersigned members of the Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid (“ITEM”) Coalition write to express our support for S. 3621, the *Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act of 2024*. We applaud your leadership in sponsoring this bipartisan legislation that would require the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) to develop rules requiring that new medical devices with digital displays, such as blood pressure monitors and insulin pumps, include accessible features for blind or visually impaired users. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to enact this bill into law.

The ITEM Coalition is a national consumer- and clinician-led coalition advocating for access to and coverage of assistive devices, technologies, and related services for persons with injuries, illnesses, disabilities, and chronic conditions of all ages. Our members represent individuals with a wide range of disabling conditions, as well as the providers who serve them, including limb loss and limb difference, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, paralysis, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, hearing, speech, and visual impairments, myositis, and other life-altering conditions.

The *Medical Device Nonvisual Accessibility Act* is designed to improve access to home medical devices for blind and visually impaired individuals, allowing for overall better health outcomes and improved ability to maintain full independence and control over their own healthcare. The rapid evolution of digital technology has resulted in more intricate user interfaces for common products, including critical medical devices. Many of these new devices rely on visual displays and require users to interact with on-screen menus and interfaces, posing challenges for consumers who are blind or have low vision.

Ensuring access to assistive medical devices is a longstanding priority for the ITEM Coalition. Accessible medical devices are critical to ensure that individuals who are blind or have low-vision are able to benefit from their usage privately, independently, and safely. The ITEM Coalition strongly supports the implementation of nonvisual accessibility standards for medical devices used in the home. Ensuring that medical devices are designed with nonvisual accessibility features will have the potential to greatly improve the overall healthcare experience

and quality of life of individuals with blindness or low vision. We support this impactful legislation.

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For additional information about the ITEM Coalition, please contact the ITEM Coalition co-coordinators, Peter Thomas at [Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com](mailto:Peter.Thomas@PowersLaw.com), Leela Baggett at [Leela.Baggett@PowersLaw.com](mailto:Leela.Baggett@PowersLaw.com), and Michael Barnett at [Michael.Barnett@PowersLaw.com](mailto:Michael.Barnett@PowersLaw.com).

Sincerely,

**The Undersigned Members of the ITEM Coalition**

Access Ready Inc.  
ACCSES  
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
All Wheels Up  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine  
American Council of the Blind  
American Macular Degeneration Foundation  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
*Amputee Coalition\**  
Assistive Technology Industry Association  
Blinded Veterans Association  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
Easterseals, Inc.  
Easterseals DC MD VA  
Institute for Matching Person & Technology  
International Eye Foundation  
International Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Lighthouse Guild  
Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc.  
Medicare Rights Center  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Perkins School for the Blind  
Prevent Blindness  
Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington  
RESNA

The Support Sight Foundation  
The Viscardi Center  
The Vision Council  
United Cerebral Palsy  
***United Spinal Association\****  
VisionServe Alliance

**Other Supporting Organizations:**  
EyeSight Foundation of Alabama

***\* ITEM Coalition Steering Committee Member***