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Maryland House Appropriations Committee  
120-121 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support for HB0214 – Maryland Assistive Technology Program - Establishment**

Dear Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

As the owner of Susan Larsen Marketing, LLC, and a proud advocate for accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill HB0214, which seeks to codify the Maryland Assistive Technology Program (MDTAP) within state statute. This critical step will ensure that Maryland continues to lead the way in supporting its residents with disabilities and fostering economic and technological innovation.

MDTAP has long been a lifeline for Marylanders with disabilities, enabling them to access the assistive technologies they need to live, work, and thrive in their communities. Codifying this program not only solidifies its essential role in our state but also allows for an expansion of services to address critical needs, including assistive technology assessments, customized training, and digital accessibility evaluations. These services will fill a growing gap in Maryland, particularly as the state's population continues to age and the demand for assistive technology rises.

With an aging population, programs like MDTAP are not just beneficial - they are essential. As more Marylanders seek to maintain their independence at home and in the workforce, access to cutting-edge assistive technologies will allow them to remain productive, connected, and engaged in their communities. The availability of advanced tools and personalized support can significantly reduce the barriers that individuals with disabilities face, promoting equity and inclusion in every aspect of daily life.

Moreover, the MDTAP program supports Maryland's economic growth by ensuring a more inclusive workforce. By providing resources and training, the program empowers individuals with disabilities to contribute fully to the economy, fostering entrepreneurship, job retention, and career advancement. Businesses and organizations also benefit from

digital accessibility assessments, ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations while broadening their customer base and improving their workplace culture.

HB0214 will also ensure that Marylanders have access to the latest, most innovative assistive technologies available. By investing in MDTAP, Maryland strengthens its reputation as a hub for technological innovation and accessibility. This program will position Maryland as a leader in the integration of technology and disability services, attracting talent, businesses, and partnerships that share our commitment to inclusivity and forward-thinking solutions.

I urge you to support HB0214 and ensure that the Maryland Assistive Technology Program is fully equipped to continue serving as a vital resource for our residents. Together, we can ensure that all Marylanders - regardless of ability - can live full, independent lives while contributing to our state's success.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to supporting Marylanders with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Susan Larsen

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