



**Erin Ashinghurst**

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Chair, Finance Committee Senator Pamela Beidle  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair and Members of the Finance Committee,

I'm writing to share my support for **Senate Bill 0208**, Human Services - Maryland Assistive Technology Program - Establishment. As someone with years of experience helping people with disabilities access resources and live more independently, I know how life-changing assistive technology can be.

In my current role at Accessible Resources for Independence, I have worked with hundreds of people with disabilities annually. I've seen how assistive technology—like communication devices, mobility aids, and other tools—can eliminate barriers and our community members the opportunity to live fuller, more independent lives. However, I've also seen how many people struggle to afford or access the essential assistive technology for healthy living. This bill would establish a program to make assistive technology more available and affordable for Marylanders with disabilities. It's a step forward to ensure people have the tools they need to communicate, get around, and fully participate in their communities.

This program is so important because it builds on Maryland's commitment to inclusion and equity. I've worked on statewide advocacy efforts, and I know how critical it is to invest in programs that directly improve access and opportunity for people with disabilities. I urge the committee to support this bill and help Maryland become a leader in assistive technology access. Thank you for your time and for considering this key step.

Sincerely,

Erin Ashinghurst, MS  
Deputy Director of Programs and Services  
Accessible Resources for Independence