Subject: Favorable SB 921

To: Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Stephanie Cascone

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Please vote in favor of SB 921 because accessibility is crucial to the education of so many children -- particularly blind children and my son. My son, Taylor, is 16 years-old and every year there are issues with the technology used in the classroom. In the virtual classroom, my son has done well with being part of class discussions and doing work that is assigned when it is accessible. However, programs like GeoGebra, a geometry system, made it impossible to participate in some of the work. We spent hours trying to access it. It was not properly developed for his assistive technology to access, but it could have and should have been. He missed out on the class discussion and learning from this program. This is just one example, but so many programs in every class have access issues.

When technology is accessible, my son has the confidence and excitement in his education. He has the tools, but the tools are not helpful if the programs don't work with his tools. Blind children like my son need their education to be accessible and the school system needs to be accountable when it is not.

Please vote yes on SB 921. Thank you.

Stephanie Cascone