



## **Preserve Access to Assistive Devices and Technologies in Any Health Reform Bill**

*Any version of health reform that emerges from Congress must preserve and protect access to rehabilitation and habilitation devices so that individuals with injuries, illnesses, disabilities and chronic conditions can regain and/or maintain their maximum level of health and independent function.*

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.

Any health reform legislation that Congress passes this year must preserve access to and coverage of rehabilitative and habilitative devices and related services. This includes coverage of durable medical equipment, complex rehab technology (CRT) wheelchairs and accessories, prosthetic limbs, orthotic braces, home oxygen therapy, and a wide variety of assistive devices that help individuals with speech, hearing, vision, ambulation, and activities of daily living.

**Assistive devices, technologies, and related services are essential** to enable people to:

- Improve, maintain, and/or prevent deterioration to their health status and functional abilities;
- Return to work;
- Live as independently as possible;
- Avoid unnecessary and expensive acute care or long term nursing home care; and
- Prevent expensive and unnecessary secondary conditions.

Assistive devices and technologies should be provided based on the individual's needs, prescribed in consultation with a physician, and based on the assessment of a multidisciplinary team and resulting plan of care.

Coverage of assistive devices, technologies, and related services is critical for enrollees in individual and small group private health plans, and beneficiaries of Medicaid expansion programs, and all other payers of health care services and devices.

For more information, contact ITEM Coalition at [steve.postal@powerslaw.com](mailto:steve.postal@powerslaw.com) or <https://itemcoalition.org/>

## Congressional Briefing Sponsoring and Endorsing Organizations

### **Sponsoring Organizations**

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
Amputee Coalition  
The Arc of the United States  
ACCSES  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
United Spinal Association

### **Endorsing Organizations**

Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals	Family Voices
American Academy of Neurology	Hearing Loss Association of America
American Association of People with Disabilities	The Institute for Matching Person & Technology
American Cochlear Implant Alliance	Lakeshore Foundation
American Foundation for the Blind	The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
American Heart Association / American Stroke Association	The Myositis Association
American Network of Community Options and Resources	National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
American Spinal Injury Association	National Association for Rural Mental Health
Assistive Technology Industry Association	National Association of Social Workers
Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired	National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
Association of Academic Physiatrists	National Council on Independent Living
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs	National Disability Rights Network
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses	National Rehabilitation Association
Association of University Centers on Disabilities	Paralyzed Veterans of America
Autism Speaks	Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
Caregiver Action Network	The Simon Foundation for Continence
Center for Medicare Advocacy	Spina Bifida Association
Clinician Task Force	TASH
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation
Easterseals	Unite 2 Fight Paralysis
Falling Forward Foundation	United Cerebral Palsy