Final draft, pending AT Council Approval

On behalf of the Statewide Assistive Technology Council (AT Council), its members and consumers with disabilities; we are writing to inform you of an important issue that has a desperate impact on the lives of Nevadan's with disabilities. After years of discussion, research and feedback regarding the state offered web based programs and services, as well as other types of information and communication technologies, we insist that people with disabilities should expect to be able to utilize the same convenient user-friendly accessible technologies their family, friends and co-workers are already using.

There are clear benefits for both state entities and to citizens when services are offered electronically. Therefore, it is essential such services be accessible and based on universal design principles—so that people with disabilities can use their existing accessible technologies to utilize these services.

We respectfully request that all websites; electronic information and other communication technology services; offered by the State of Nevada conform to the widely adopted web accessibility standards (WCAG 2.0 AA) at a minimum

Furthermore, to ensure existing and new services can meet accessibility and usability standards we urge the State of Nevada to formalize accessibility within the procurement process. The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) developed the Policy Driven Adoption for Accessibility process that ensures accessibility is integral in the consideration process. We urge its adoption.

Formal recognition of accessibility standards combined with procurement policies incorporating accessibility will have a significant and positive impact on accessibility and usability for all citizens of Nevada. The AT Council on behalf of the assistive technology users in the State of Nevada, are looking forward to collaborating with you for a solution.

Glossary and links:

WCAG 2.0 AA: **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines**
ARIA: **Accessible Rich Internet Applications Working Group**
WCAG2ICT: **Guidance on Applying WCAG 2.0 to Non-Web Information and Communications Technologies**
ATAG: **Authoring Tool Accessibility Guidelines 2.0**
To ensure that web content tools are both accessible to authors with disabilities (Part A) and encourage the production of accessible content (Part B).
NASCIO: National Association of State Chief Information Officers **Accessibility in IT Procurement**