

August 17, 2023

Via E-mail

The Honorable Brenda Erdoes
Director
Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Accessibility Audit Request

Good afternoon, Director Erdoes,

We write today to request a Legislative Audit of the State's accessibility features. For example, Mr. Steven Cohen has been in regular communication with your Broadcast and Production Services (BPS) Department, as recently as the August 9, 2023 Interim Finance Committee (IFC) meeting concerning a recurring issue with NELIS' closed captioning (CC) feature.

However, this CC issue is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to full accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities in the People's process. For example, people who are deaf or hard of hearing may require American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters to fully participate in meetings. Additionally, people who are blind or have low vision may require meeting agendas in a non-PDF format. Lastly, people with hearing loss may require Communication Access Real Time (CART) transcription.

In summary, the Legislature, and the State as a whole, must do better when it comes to accessibility. If it fails to take prompt action, it faces litigation under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended. This potential litigation would be a lot more expensive than gaining an understanding of where the assets and gaps in accessibility are and making the necessary recommendations to fund and/or implement other necessary strategies to minimize the gaps.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact the Nevada Assistive Technology (AT) Council at Deanna@adsd.nv.gov with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

/s/

CC: Daniel Crossman, Legislative Auditor
CC: Tim Robb, Governor's Director for Strategic Initiatives