



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND

RHODE ISLAND

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January 24, 2024

The Honorable Jacquelyn M. Baginski, Chair
Rhode Island House Innovation, Internet, and Technology Committee
Providence RI

Testimony in Support of H7159

Dear Chair Baginski and Committee Members:

We the members of the National Federation of the Blind of Rhode Island strongly urge the committee to support H7159. Today, the ability to navigate Websites is a necessity to complete essential tasks such as health care appointments, reviewing health information, applying for jobs, applying for unemployment benefits and much more. Surveys show that 85% of Americans access the Internet at least once a day. Blind and visually impaired Rhode Islanders should have equal access to critical services and information available on State agency websites like our sighted neighbors. The ADA has been in place for 33 years and yet we too often encounter access barriers preventing us from accomplishing tasks independently. Thus, we urge the committee to pass this vital legislation and provide equal access to blind Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely

Graciela Pires

President, National Federation of the Blind of RI