



Comment from Lauridsen, Erin

This is a Comment on the **Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) Proposed Rule: Information and Communication Technology Standards and Guidelines**

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Due May 28 2015, at 11:59 PM ET

Comment

Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco urges the Access board to move forward with the proposed ICT refresh. The current Section 508 standards are inadequate to support access to advanced web technologies and mobile applications. As long as the current standards remain in place, those of us who rely on accessible information and communications technology will continue to encounter products that, while technically adherent to the current Section 508 standards, lack the robust accessibility features needed to provide effective and equal access to information. The current standards were developed before mobile technology became ubiquitous, and when websites lacked the variety of technologies and complex features they contain today. We commend the Access Board for including the WCAG 2.0 guidelines in the ICT refresh. Including these guidelines, which have been developed by global accessibility leaders, and provide clear and concise benchmarks for functional performance, ensures the accessibility of ICT on a variety of platforms, and will allow venders and federal agencies to work within a set of standards more appropriate to todays technology landscape. Those of us who rely on accessible information and communications technology are counting on the access board to adopt these new standards, so that public facing documents, sites, and technologies are accessible to Americans with Disabilities. Additionally, as many state governments, educational institutions, and other entities refer to the federal standards for ICT accessibility, the broad positive impact on information access will extend beyond the official reach of the standards.

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