



**Inaccessible information and communication technologies exclude disabled New Yorkers from basic information and resources.**

**Co-Sponsor A3417-Pretlow/S2882-Sepulveda to ensure robust accessibility standards.**

The State of New York, local governments, and their agencies contract with private entities on a regular basis, and these contracts often involve information and communication technologies (ICT). Whenever new technologies are implemented through the State or any of its agencies, Federal and state law requires that those technologies be usable by all. Unless explicit and robust accessibility requirements are built into the language of a request for proposals (RFP) and subsequent contract, accessibility of the resulting ICT cannot be assured.

Inaccessible ICT excludes people with disabilities from activities of employment, education, civic responsibility, and other activities supported by technologies which the State procures. Including robust, explicit accessibility requirements in RFPs provides an incentive for businesses to create ICT that is meaningfully accessible. Building accessibility into ICT from the outset of a project carries little inherent additional expense and is easier, more successful, and more cost effective than trying to add it in later.