



September 15, 2023

Rebecca B. Bond  
Chief, Disability Rights Section  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
900 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Bond,

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, I write regarding the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) issued on August 4, 2023, titled “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities” (CRT Docket No. 144). To ensure there is adequate time to gather the needed feedback to provide substantive comments, we are requesting that the Department of Justice (DOJ) extend the comment period by an additional 90 days.

The last effort by the DOJ to issue a rule regarding the accessibility of web information and services of state and local governments for those with a disability was in May 2016. When the Supplemental Advance NPRM was released, a 90-day comment period was given to allow for substantive feedback. However, 10 days before comments were due, DOJ shared that it was going to extend the comment period for an additional 60 days to allow more time for the public to provide informed comments. Unfortunately, the NPRM released last month only allows for a 60-day comment period, which results in far less time to provide substantial comments.

Given the massive impact that this NPRM would have on all entities, especially public institutions of higher education, under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is important that DOJ is well informed of any likely impacts, including possible unintended consequences. We are supportive of ensuring that anyone with a disability is able to reasonably access any web and mobile content that is available to the public, and we want to make sure that there is enough time to provide the input needed to aid in the success of any new requirements.

We share your goal of achieving the best outcomes for students, families, and public institutions of higher education. We strongly believe that adding additional time will result in a final regulation that is the most beneficial to all stakeholders involved. We appreciate the instances when you have extended the comment period beyond the

initial timeframe at the request of stakeholders and hope that you will do the same given the importance of this NPRM.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request, and we look forward to working with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ted Mitchell  
President

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Council on Education  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities