Pat Leahy, Senior Advisor, EAC

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (EAC)
• In 2009 and 2010, Congress appropriated $8M to the EAC for the development of a grant program focused on accessible voting.

• The EAC awarded three grants:
  – Clemson University Coalition
  – Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF)
  – The Military Heroes Grant to ITIF

• The grantees have produced approximately 45 research and development solutions for helping voters with disabilities.
  – Many of these results involve poll worker training
• 15.6 million people with disabilities voted in the November 2012 election

• The voter turnout rate of people with disabilities was 5.7 percentage points lower than that of people without disabilities. There would be 3 million more voters with disabilities if they voted at the same rate as people without disabilities.

• Almost one-third (30.1%) of voters with disabilities reported difficulty in voting at a polling place in 2012, compared to 8.4% of voters without disabilities.

• People with disabilities were just as likely as those without disabilities to say they were treated respectfully by election officials.

(Source: Disability, Voter Turnout, and Voting Difficulties in the 2012 Elections)