

Leading Disability Organizations: Delaying Digital Accessibility is Unacceptable

Press Release

For Immediate Release: April 21, 2026

Contact: Jess Davidson, jdavidson@aapd.com; 202-465-5528

A broad coalition of disability rights organizations is expressing our unequivocal opposition: the Department of Justice's Interim Final Rule extending the compliance deadline for the Title II digital accessibility rule is unacceptable and undermines timely access to digital services for people with disabilities.

Fourteen years after first beginning a rulemaking to establish standards for web accessibility, the Department of Justice issued a rule in 2024 under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, requiring state and local governments to ensure that their websites and mobile app content are accessible to people with disabilities. This rule did not establish a new obligation to make web content and mobile apps accessible. The ADA passed more than 35 years ago, and courts had already long held that website accessibility is mandated under the ADA. Rather, it clarified and detailed how, precisely, these governments must act in order to comply with this existing obligation. In doing so, it created clarity and transparency for all parties, increasing accessibility while simultaneously reducing liability risk. The rule took into account the concerns of state and local governments about steps they needed to take to comply, and in light of those concerns, provided lengthy periods—two years for larger entities and three years for smaller entities—before compliance was required.

The initial compliance deadline for large entities (serving populations greater than 50,000) was April 24, 2026. On April 20, the Department of Justice issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) extending this deadline to April 2027 for large entities and to April 2028 for smaller entities. The concerns that the Department now cites for extending the compliance deadlines are the same ones raised and fully considered in 2024. The IFR further signals the Department's intent to make substantial revisions to the web accessibility rule. These actions undermine the significant efforts of organizations and advocates working to ensure accessible digital services. They also create confusion for entities actively working to meet the original April 2026 deadline and increase the costs associated with accessibility remediation. Most importantly, the delay prolongs the barriers that people with disabilities face in accessing essential services provided by state and local governments. Blind and deafblind people are routinely excluded from essential election websites because government platforms remain incompatible with screen readers, which can output digital content via speech or Braille. Deaf individuals also miss critical healthcare and public safety information when governments fail to provide content in accessible formats. Students with dyslexia or other cognitive or print disabilities are cut off from understanding school assignments, putting them at a structural disadvantage in academics.

Disabled parents, too, struggle to help their children with homework when these platforms are inaccessible. These are only a few examples of how people with disabilities are excluded from essential government services when governments do not make their digital environments accessible.

The 2024 web accessibility rule was developed through extensive input from organizations and advocates. By contrast, the Department is using the IFR process to bypass standard notice-and-comment procedures to implement changes immediately upon publication. We do not agree that the administration has good cause having had over a year for a notice and comment process and issuing the IFR when large entities acting in good faith are moving to compliance in less than a week. This approach undermines the integrity of the rulemaking process and deprives disabled constituents of the opportunity to meaningfully raise concerns and objections. It also creates instability within the regulatory environment, which causes hesitation and delay on the part of those to whom the rules apply, further stymying progress.

We strongly oppose these changes and demand that the Department withdraw the Interim Final Rule and restore the original compliance deadlines. If the Administration wants to make changes to rules, they should use the notice and comment process in order to hear from impacted communities.

American Association of People with Disabilities

Ability Resources

Ability360

Able South Carolina, Inc.

Access Living

Access Ready Inc

Access To Independence of Cortland County

ADA Legacy Project

ADA Watch/Coalition for Disability Rights & Justice

AiArthritis

Alliance for Aging Research

Allies for Independence

American Association on Health and Disability

American Council of the Blind

American Foundation for the Blind

American Printing House for the Blind

Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition
Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council
Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)
Association for Special Children and Families
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Boston Center for Independent Living
Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled
CancerCare
CAST
Catskill Center for Independence
Center for Autism and Related Disorders
Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)
Center for Public Representation
Center for Racial & Disability Justice
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition on Accessibility in Higher Education
Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
CommunicationFIRST
Community Access National Network
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA)
Crip the Law
Deaf Equality
Detroit Disability Power
DiabetesSisters
Direct Advocacy & Resource Center
Disability Community for Democracy, Inc.
Disability Equity Collaborative
Disability Lead

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Disability Rights Vermont
Diverse Elders Coalition (DEC)
Easterseals, Inc.
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Family Voices NJ
Harlem Independent Living Center (HILC)
Health Hats
HealthHIV
Healthy Men Inc.
HI Nepal
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Inclusive Development Partners (IDP)
Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley
Independent Living, Inc.
Infusion Access Foundation
Inspire Positivity Inc
Justice in Aging
JustLeadership USA
Lakeshore Foundation
Lane Independent Living Alliance (LILA)
Langton Green, Inc.
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Making Space
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
NAACP
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)
National Action Network
National Association of the Deaf
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)

National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Federation of the Blind
National Health Law Program
National Organization For Women
National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities
National Organization on Disability
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Patient Advocate Foundation
NBJC
Network of OT Practitioners with Disabilities & Supporters (NOTPD)
New Disabled South
New York Association on Independent Living
New York DeafBlind Advocates
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
Not Dead Yet
OT Leaders & Legacies Society
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Partnership to Improve Patient Care
Perkins School for the Blind
REV UP Georgia Coalition
REV UP New York Coalition
REV UP Virginia Coalition
REV UP Vermont Coalition
SMILE
Southern Tier Independence Center
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
Spark Access
Spoken Heroes
TASH
TDIforAccess (TDI)
The Advocacy Institute

The Arc Minnesota

The Arc of the United States

The Bonnell Foundation: Living with Cystic Fibrosis

The Center for Independent Living

The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy, and Innovation

The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders

The Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center

The Kelsey

The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies

The Speak Foundation

Touch the Future Inc

TSC Alliance

United Spinal Association

Vermont Center for Independent Living

Vermont Environmental Justice Network

WeMatter Disability organization

WHOM IT CONCERNS, INC.

Women Employed

World Institute on Disability