



BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR
STATE OF TENNESSEE

October 11, 2018

Debbie Payne, Commissioner
Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner Payne,

I want to commend you and the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for launching the Enabling Technology program to promote independence and self-determination among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Already, the implementation of these technologies has been life-changing for people receiving Department and related services by allowing them to live more independently and reducing their reliance on state and federally-funded supports. This is an example of effective and efficient government at its best.

As you are aware, the state budget appropriated \$500,000 in recurring state dollars for the Department to make Enabling Technology available to more people. I encourage the Department to continue its work on appropriately expanding the use of Enabling Technology to people who can benefit from having it in their homes and as they navigate their communities and participate in employment.

The Department's leadership and its partnership with community stakeholders has been key to ensuring thoughtful implementation of the program carefully and will lead to successful outcomes. To that end, I would like the department to continue to lead the way in convening stakeholders to identify new avenues for Enabling Technology and remove barriers to its implementation through its Enabling Technology Advisory Council. As this council is inclusive of people supported, families, providers, advocacy organizations, and managed care organizations, it is well poised to provide guidance and feedback to the Department as it expands the use of technology to more people.

Thank you for your continued focus on this important issue. I look forward to seeing how technology creates more opportunities for Tennesseans with disabilities to live more independently and participate in their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Haslam".

Bill Haslam