



**TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS FOR VOTING SYSTEMS  
THAT ENSURE VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES CAN VOTE IN A  
PRIVATE AND INDEPENDENT MANNER**

**TESTIMONY OF  
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**U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
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Good Afternoon,

My name is Delores Scott. I am a senior attorney with the National Disability Rights Network in Washington, DC.

The National Disability Rights Network is a cross-disability, non-profit membership association of the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy system.

The National Disability Rights Network serves as a national information and training clearinghouse for the Protection and Advocacy system. I oversee and provide training and technical assistance to the federally mandated Protection & Advocacy for Voting Accessibility (PAVA) program, 42 U.S.C. 15461.

There are Protection and Advocacy agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. territories. The Protection & Advocacy System is the nation's largest provider of legally-based advocacy services for individuals with disabilities.

Under the Help America Vote Act, the Protection and Advocacy System has a unique role in helping to ensure the voting rights of individuals with disabilities, including helping to ensure election access to a wide range of individuals with disabilities, including, but not limited to, individuals with cognitive, sensory and physical disabilities.

This brings me to the topic of today's discussion. Given that the technology for universal accessibility and usability is in the development stage, I encourage the Election Assistance Commission to look to disability organizations and individuals with disabilities as part of the solution when certifying new technology.

For example, in February 2009, this Commission certified its first voting system, the Micro Vote. However, for universal accessibility and usability, the Micro Vote also requires dual switches to accommodate the needs of individuals with mobility impairments.

In closing, I encourage the Election Assistance Commission to consult with the National Disability Rights Network and our Protection and Advocacy state disability rights affiliates when certifying new voting systems technology; thereby, helping to ensure that **ALL** individuals with disabilities can cast a private, independent and verifiable ballot.

Thank you.