**Dots and Dashes**

**June 2, 2025**

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# **Hotel Reservation Cutoff Date Coming Up Fast**

The 2025 ACB Conference and Convention will take place July 4th through 11th in Dallas, Texas, at the Hyatt Regency Dallas Hotel. Make your hotel reservations at [**https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/DFWRD/G-AMCB**](https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/DFWRD/G-AMCB), or call 1-800-233-1234 and use the following code to receive the discounted room rate: G-AMCB. To receive the guaranteed convention room rate, rooms must be booked **by June 9th, 2025.**

The Hyatt Regency Dallas is located at 300 Reunion Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207. Room rates are:

* $99 per night plus tax for single or double occupancy
* $124 per night plus tax for triple occupancy
* $149 per night plus tax for quadruple occupancy

The current tax rate is 17.3%.

The hotel does not offer a shuttle service.

All rooms will have a refrigerator and K-cup coffee maker.

Parking at the hotel is $30 per day.

Additionally, the hotel is cashless, so any purchases at the hotel must be made with a credit or debit card. If you need to cancel your room, please call Janet Dickelman at (651) 428-5059 or via e-mail at **janet.dickelman@gmail.com**. Do NOT call the hotel!

For more information about the 2025 ACB Conference and Convention, visit [**https://acbconvention.org/**](https://acbconvention.org/).

# **Two More Weeks to Register for Convention**

Registration for the 2025 American Council of the Blind Conference and Convention is open. Registration will close on Tuesday, June 17th at 11:59 p.m. Central time.

You can register online at [**https://members.acb.org/**](https://members.acb.org/), or via telephone.

If you have not created a member account at [**https://members.acb.org/**](https://members.acb.org/), select the link labeled “Create an Account” and provide the information requested. After creating an account, ACB needs to link your member account to their database, and may take up to 24 business hours before you will be able to login and complete a convention registration. If you do not know your username and password, or if the password reset does not work, call (612) 332-3242.

If you would like assistance registering, please call Janet Dickelman at (651) 428-5059 and leave a message with your name, phone number, time zone, and whether you plan to attend the convention in person or virtually.

For more information, visit [**https://www.acb.org/acb-opens-registration-2025-conference-and-convention**](https://www.acb.org/acb-opens-registration-2025-conference-and-convention).

**ACB Advocacy Update**

This week, Claire speaks with allies from three other disability advocacy groups to learn more about three bills ACB is supporting. The bills cover a spectrum of issues that impact the blind and low vision community and exemplify the advocacy work ACB does on Capitol Hill. To listen, go to [**https://www.acbmedia.org/2025/05/22/disability-rights-legislation-that-acb-is-following/**](https://www.acbmedia.org/2025/05/22/disability-rights-legislation-that-acb-is-following/).

# **ACB Supports Legislation Aimed at Strengthening Early Detection of Vision Impairments**

ACB announces its support for two critical pieces of legislation aimed at strengthening early detection and intervention for children with vision impairments: H.R. 3541, the See the Board Act, and H.R. 2527, the Early Detection of Vision Impairments (EDVI) Act. These bills would expand access to vision screenings, improve coordination between providers, and help ensure that families have access to timely services.

ACB calls on our members to contact their Congressmembers to co-sponsor and push this bill forward. Members can call the Congressional switchboard at (202) 225-3121. The two bill numbers are H.R. 2527 and 3541.

Read the full press release at [**https://tinyurl.com/2mmae9nc**](https://tinyurl.com/2mmae9nc).

# **Disability Advocates Commend the Introduction of the Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act**

**BALTIMORE, May 20, 2025 —** The National Federation of the Blind, the American Council of the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, and the National Disability Rights Network applaud the introduction of the Websites and Software Applications Accessibility Act, H.R. 3417, into the House of Representatives by Rep. Pete Sessions (Texas) and lead co-sponsor Rep. Steny Hoyer (Maryland).  This legislation seeks to eliminate persistent digital accessibility barriers faced by blind and disabled Americans.

"ACB strongly supports the Websites and Software Application Accessibility Act because it brings us one step closer to a truly inclusive society,” says American Council of the Blind Executive Director Scott Thornhill. “This bill will finally make digital accessibility a legal requirement — not just a best practice — and ensure that websites and software are designed with everyone in mind from the start. ACB has long championed this critical issue, and we remain committed to advocate for its passage for as long as necessary."

To read the entire press release, visit [**https://tinyurl.com/mw5knect**](https://tinyurl.com/mw5knect).

# **Court Orders Chicago to Install Thousands of Accessible Pedestrian Signals**

A federal court ordered Chicago to install thousands of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) over the next 10 years, a historic win in the years-long legal battle by blind and low vision pedestrians for safe and equitable streets. APS are devices that convey visual crossing information (i.e., WALK or DON’T WALK) in audible and vibrotactile formats accessible to blind, low vision, and Deafblind pedestrians.

Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) and Proskauer Rose LLP filed a class action lawsuit in September 2019 on behalf of the American Council of the Blind of Metropolitan Chicago and three individual plaintiffs challenging Chicago’s discriminatory practices that disregard blind and low vision safety needs during pedestrian planning. The federal Department of Justice joined the suit shortly after it was filed following its own investigation into the City’s APS-related policies and practices.

To read the full court order, visit [**https://tinyurl.com/4tuww63d**](https://tinyurl.com/4tuww63d).

# **Driving Global Accessibility at the**

# **2025 M-Enabling Summit**

Are you interested in making technology accessible for everyone? Don’t miss this year’s M-Enabling Summit! This leading global event gathers digital accessibility experts to share strategies and best practices for inclusive digital content and services. As a supporting organization for the event, ACB is excited to contribute to a more inclusive digital future! Join us there October 6-8, 2025, in Washington, D.C. For more details and take advantage of Early Bird registration rates, visit [**https://www.m-enabling.com/event/a75cd7b0-6c94-4ad6-9f5c-05110c32b04d/m-enabling-summit**](https://www.m-enabling.com/event/a75cd7b0-6c94-4ad6-9f5c-05110c32b04d/m-enabling-summit).

# **Notice of Digital Accessibility Settlement Concerning** [**www.saatva.com**](http://www.saatva.com)

A proposed settlement has been reached that would resolve the class action lawsuit Douglass v. Whitestone Home Furnishings, LLC, Case No. 2:25-cv-00460 (W.D. Pa.). The lawsuit alleges that Whitestone Home Furnishings, LLC d/b/a Saatva violated the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101, et seq., by failing to take the necessary steps to ensure its website and mobile apps does not discriminate against individuals who are blind and/or who have a visual disability. Under the settlement, Saatva agrees to make its website and any new website or mobile app it develops or acquires accessible to individuals who are blind and/or who have a visual disability. For a more complete summary of the terms of the proposed settlement, please visit [**https://www.SaatvaADAsettlement.com**](https://www.SaatvaADAsettlement.com).

Have questions? Contact East End Trial Group at [**https://eastendtrialgroup.com**](https://eastendtrialgroup.com).

# **Talking Prescriptions for Your Guide Dogs from Chewy**

You can now receive ScripTalk Talking Prescription Labels on your guide dog’s medications from Chewy!

If you are interested in getting this free service, give En-Vision America a call at 1-800-890-1180, and their staff will work with Chewy to get you set up.