Lucio Delgado, who is blind, requested Braille for the reading test on his citizenship exam. Federal agents offered a version of the test in large print instead.

Credit...
Taylor Glascock for The New York Times

To the Editor:

Re “With No Braille Option, a Blind Man Failed His Citizenship Exam” (nytimes.com, March 7):

The story of Lucio Delgado is upsetting, yet all too familiar.

I personally know Lucio. He participated in our Youth Transition Program, which helps young adults who are blind or visually impaired attain skills to live independently. Lucio is a young man of extraordinary character and is an example of everything a U.S. citizen
should be. The system failed him, as it has so many people who are blind or visually impaired.

Sadly, Lucio’s story is not unique. People who are blind or visually impaired face discrimination not only when it comes to immigration status, but also in basic areas like employment, housing and education.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act, a landmark piece of legislation that guarantees equal rights, access and opportunities for people of all abilities. Luckily, Lucio will have a chance to retake his citizenship test. Unfortunately, stories like his only demonstrate how much further we have to go to attain equality for all.

Janet P. Szlyk
Chicago
The writer is president and chief executive of The Chicago Lighthouse.

A version of this article appears in print on March 24, 2020, Section A, Page 22 of the New York edition with the headline: The Wrong Way to Fight the Pandemic.