

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 29

Recognizing the need to improve physical access to many federally funded facilities for all people of the United States, particularly people with disabilities.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the need to improve physical access to many federally funded facilities for all people of the United States, particularly people with disabilities.

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution prevents Congress from making any law respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise of religion, or abridging the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the right to peaceably assemble, or to petition for a governmental redress of grievances, and was adopted on December 15, 1791, as 1 of the 10 amendments that constitute the Bill of Rights;

Whereas the Bill of Rights, specifically the First Amendment to the Constitution, calls for the right of all persons to

peaceably assemble, and to this end, all persons, regardless of their physical ability, shall be offered equal opportunity to access all federally funded, in whole or part, amenities;

Whereas, in the 32 years since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) (in this preamble referred to as the “ADA”), there have been unprecedented advances in all forms of technology;

Whereas, in 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 1 in 4 adults, or 61,000,000 people, have a disability;

Whereas disability is a universal concern, as an aging population increases the incidence of frailty and disability;

Whereas, as significant advances in medical treatment result in increased survival rates, the incidence of disability increases;

Whereas, in 2020, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 4,700,000 veterans received service-related disability benefits;

Whereas, in 2019, the percentage of working-age people in the United States who reported having a work limitation due to a disability was 10.1 percent;

Whereas the Act entitled “An Act to insure that certain buildings financed with Federal funds are so designed and constructed as to be accessible to the physically handicapped”, approved August 12, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) (commonly known as the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968), was enacted to ensure that certain federally funded facilities are designed and constructed to be accessible to people with disabilities;

Whereas the United States Access Board (in this preamble referred to as the “Board”) is in the process of developing new guidelines for public rights-of-way that will address various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain;

Whereas the Board’s new guidelines, when finalized, will cover pedestrian access to sidewalks and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other components of public rights-of-way;

Whereas the Board’s aim in developing these guidelines is to ensure that access for persons with disabilities is provided wherever a pedestrian way is newly built or altered, and that the same degree of convenience, connection, and safety afforded the public generally is available to pedestrians with disabilities;

Whereas once these guidelines are adopted by the Department of Justice, they will become enforceable standards under title II of the ADA; and

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of equality and freedom, and these principles require that all people, including people with disabilities, are able to engage as equal members of society: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
 2   *concurring), That Congress—*

1           (1) recognizes that people with disabilities in  
2           the United States experience barriers to access on a  
3           daily basis;

4           (2) reaffirms its support of the Act entitled  
5           “An Act to insure that certain buildings financed  
6           with Federal funds are so designed and constructed  
7           as to be accessible to the physically handicapped”,  
8           approved August 12, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.)  
9           (commonly known as the Architectural Barriers Act  
10          of 1968), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of  
11          1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and encourages full  
12          compliance with such Acts; and

13          (3) pledges to make universal and inclusive de-  
14          sign a guiding principle for all infrastructure bills  
15          and projects and will continue working to identify  
16          and remove the barriers that prevent all people of  
17          the United States from having equal access to the  
18          services provided by the Federal Government.

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