

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 772

Recognizing the importance of independent living and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen and expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in work and community life.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2024

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of independent living and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen and expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in work and community life.

Whereas, in enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), Congress recognized

that “historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem”;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 recognizes the rights of individuals with disabilities to fully participate in their communities through independent living, equality of opportunity, and economic self-sufficiency;

Whereas, 34 years after the date of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and 25 years after the date of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), individuals with disabilities are faced with systemic ableism in the labor market, are pushed into poverty by lower rates of employment, and have higher costs of living associated with their disabilities;

Whereas, 34 years after the date of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990—

(1) nearly a quarter of the population of individuals with disabilities live below the poverty line;

(2) individuals with disabilities continue to face high rates of unemployment and barriers to accessible workplaces;

(3) women with disabilities continue to regularly face barriers to reproductive healthcare, including inaccessible and inequitable services;

(4) some telecommunication, electronic, and information technologies continue to be developed without the goal of making those technologies fully accessible for all individuals of the United States; and

(5) many businesses, public and private organizations, transportation systems, and services remain inaccessible to many individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the continuation of segregated institutional settings has hindered the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in communities, schools, and workplaces, undermining the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

Whereas individuals with disabilities, especially those of color, have been disparately impacted by the lingering effects of the COVID–19 pandemic, and the number of individuals with disabilities has increased due to Long COVID;

Whereas individuals with disabilities are more at risk for loss of life, loss of independence, or violation of civil rights than the general population during disaster, response, and recovery;

Whereas individuals of color with disabilities experience disproportionately greater barriers to high quality and accessible healthcare, education, housing, and competitive integrated employment opportunities, infringing on their right to fully participate in their communities under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 represents the floor, and not the ceiling, of efforts needed to dismantle barriers to full participation, equal opportunity, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and

Whereas fulfilling the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires individuals, families, communities, and government to work together to guarantee that individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to

thrive in their communities and in their lives: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the importance of independent
3 living, equal opportunity, full participation, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities
4 made possible by the enactment of the Americans
5 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et
6 seq.);

7 (2) encourages the people of the United States
8 to celebrate the advancement of inclusion and equality
9 of opportunity made possible by the enactment of
10 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

11 (3) pledges to continue to work on a bipartisan
12 basis to identify and address the remaining barriers
13 that undermine the national goals of equality of opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and full participation for individuals with disabilities, including by focusing on individuals with disabilities who remain segregated in institutions;

14 (4) pledges to work with States to improve access to home- and community-based services for individuals with disabilities, with a focus on increasing access to employment;

15 (5) calls on the Department of Labor to develop policies and practices and to provide technical assist-

1 ance that enables individuals with disabilities to be-
2 come economically self-sufficient;

3 (6) calls on the Office of Disability Employment
4 Policy of the Department of Labor to coordinate
5 with employers and all levels of government to de-
6 velop and influence policies and practices that in-
7 crease the number and quality of employment oppor-
8 tunities for individuals with disabilities;

9 (7) calls on the Federal Communications Com-
10 mission to provide information, resources, and tech-
11 nical assistance to enable individuals with disabilities
12 to have full and equitable access to communications
13 and telecommunications services and technologies;

14 (8) calls on the Department of Health and
15 Human Services to provide information, resources,
16 and technical assistance related to home- and com-
17 munity-based services and to enable individuals with
18 disabilities to live independently;

19 (9) calls on the Department of Housing and
20 Urban Development to provide accessible and inclu-
21 sive homes and communities that increase the op-
22 tions available for accessible, inclusive, and equitable
23 housing for individuals with disabilities;

24 (10) calls on the Department of Transportation
25 to create accessible transit and airports and increase

1 the hiring, promotion, and retention of individuals
2 with disabilities in the transportation workforce; and
3 (11) calls on the Federal Emergency Manage-
4 ment Agency to continue to implement a whole com-
5 munity approach and to increase inclusivity and ac-
6 cessibility in emergency preparedness.

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