

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, twenty-eight million United States citizens have cognitive disabilities such as intellectual disability; severe, persistent mental illness; brain injury; stroke; and neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease; and

Whereas, people with cognitive disabilities are entitled to inclusion in our democratic society under federal laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and under state and local laws; and

Whereas, the disruptive convergence of computing and communication technologies has substantially altered how people acquire, utilize, and disseminate knowledge and information; and

Whereas, access to comprehensible information and usable communication technologies is necessary for all people in our society, particularly for people with cognitive disabilities, to promote self-determination and to engage meaningfully in major aspects of life such as education, health promotion, employment, recreation, and civic participation; and

Whereas, the vast majority of people with cognitive disabilities have limited or no access to comprehensible information and usable communication technologies; and

Whereas, people with cognitive disabilities must have access to commercially available devices and software that incorporate principles of universal design such as flexibility and ease of use for all; and

Whereas, technology and information access by people with cognitive disabilities must be guided by standards and best- practices, such as personalization and compatibility across devices and platforms, and through the application of innovations including automated and predictive technologies; and

Whereas, security and privacy must be assured and managed to protect civil rights and personal dignity of people with cognitive disabilities; and

Whereas, enhanced public and private funding is urgently required to allow people with cognitive disabilities to utilize technology and access information as a natural consequence of their rights to inclusion in our society; and

Whereas, ensuring access to technology and information for the 28 million people with cognitive disabilities in the United States will create new markets and employment opportunities; decrease dependency on public services; reduce health care costs; and improve the independence, productivity, and quality of life of people with cognitive disabilities:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge a commitment to equal rights for people with cognitive disabilities to technology and information access and call for implementation of such rights with deliberate speed.