

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 348

Recognizing the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen home and community living for individuals with disabilities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 9, 2021

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen home and community living for individuals with disabilities.

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 individ-

uals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem”;

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

Whereas, 31 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and 22 years after the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), many individuals with disabilities continue to live in segregated institutional settings because of a lack of support services;

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

Whereas people with disabilities living in institutional and long-term care settings suffered disproportionate rates of infection and death during the COVID–19 pandemic, with data showing 60 percent of COVID–19 deaths involved a person with a disability;

Whereas people of color with disabilities experience disproportionately greater barriers to quality, accessible health care, education, and employment opportunities, infringing on the right of such people under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to full participation in their communities;

Whereas, 31 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, people with disabilities continue

to face higher rates of unemployment and barriers to accessible workplaces and access to competitive integrated employment opportunities.

Whereas, 31 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, some telecommunication, electronic, and information technologies continue to be developed without the goal of full accessibility and inclusion for all people of the United States; and

Whereas, 31 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, many businesses, public and private organizations, transportation systems, and services are still not accessible to all individuals with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the importance of independent
3 living for individuals with disabilities made possible
4 by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities
5 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.);

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

10 (3) pledges to continue to work on a bipartisan
11 basis to identify and address the remaining barriers
12 that undermine the national goals of equality of op-
13 portunity, independent living, economic self-suffi-
14 ciency, and full participation for individuals with dis-

1 abilities, including by focusing on individuals with
2 disabilities that remain segregated in institutions;

3 (4) pledges to work with States to improve ac-
4 cess to home- and community-based services for in-
5 dividuals with disabilities;

6 (5) calls on the Department of Labor to provide
7 information, resources, and technical assistance that
8 enable individuals with disabilities to achieve eco-
9 nomic self-sufficiency; and

10 (6) calls on the Department of Health and
11 Human Services to provide information, resources,
12 and technical assistance regarding home- and com-
13 munity-based services and supports that enable indi-
14 viduals with disabilities to live independently.

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