
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 74 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL, KINSEY,
MURT AND MARKOSEK, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Declaring that the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of
2 Pennsylvania is committed to equal rights for individuals
3 with cognitive disabilities to technology and information
4 access and calling for implementation of these rights with
5 deliberate speed.

6 WHEREAS, Nearly 30 million United States citizens have
7 cognitive disabilities, which include intellectual disability,
8 severe, persistent mental illness, pervasive developmental
9 disability, learning disability, brain injury, stroke and
10 neurodegenerative disorder, such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's
11 disease; and

12 WHEREAS, The functional challenges that can accompany the
13 various types of cognitive disabilities include difficulties
14 with attentiveness, memory, comprehension, processing, problem-
15 solving, reading and language; and

16 WHEREAS, The disruptive convergence of computing and
17 communication technologies has substantially altered how people
18 acquire, utilize and disseminate knowledge and information; and

19 WHEREAS, Ninety-six percent of working Americans now use

1 information and communication technology, while the vast
2 majority of individuals with cognitive disabilities have limited
3 or no access to comprehensible information and usable
4 communication technologies; and

5 WHEREAS, Access to comprehensible information and usable
6 communication technologies is necessary for all individuals in
7 our society, particularly for individuals with cognitive
8 disabilities, to promote independence and self-determination and
9 to engage meaningfully in major aspects of life, such as
10 education, health promotion, employment, recreation and civic
11 participation; and

12 WHEREAS, To ensure individuals with cognitive disabilities
13 are entitled to inclusion and equal treatment in our democratic
14 society, Federal laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities
15 Act of 1990 (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education
16 Act (IDEA), the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill
17 of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act), sections 501, 504 and 508 of the
18 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Twenty-First Century
19 Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA), as
20 well as State and local laws, have been enacted and court
21 decisions have been made; and

22 WHEREAS, In order to enhance user independence, integration
23 and productivity, while reducing stigmas, individuals with
24 cognitive disabilities must have access to commercially
25 available devices and software that incorporate principles of
26 universal design, such as flexibility and ease of use for all;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Technology and information access by individuals
29 with cognitive disabilities must be guided by standards and best
30 practices, such as personalization and compatibility across

1 devices and platforms, and through the application of
2 innovations, including automated and predictive technologies;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Security and privacy must be assured and managed to
5 protect the civil rights and personal dignity of individuals
6 with cognitive disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, Enhanced public and private funding is urgently
8 needed to allow individuals with cognitive disabilities to
9 utilize technology and access information as a natural
10 consequence of their rights to inclusion in our society; and

11 WHEREAS, Ensuring access to technology and information for
12 the approximately 30 million individuals with cognitive
13 disabilities in the United States will create new markets and
14 employment opportunities, decrease dependency on public
15 services, reduce health care costs and improve the inclusion,
16 independence, productivity, self-determination and quality of
17 life of individuals with cognitive disabilities; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
19 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania affirm our commitment to
20 equal rights for individuals with cognitive disabilities to
21 technology and information access and call for implementation of
22 these rights with deliberate speed; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
24 the Governor, the presiding officers of each house of Congress,
25 each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and the Chair of the
26 Federal Communications Commission.