
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 356 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, BREWSTER,
SABATINA, BROWNE, SCHWANK, FARNESE, VULAKOVICH, MENSCH,
RAFFERTY AND COSTA, MAY 21, 2018

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 21, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the importance of ensuring access to technology and
2 information for individuals with cognitive disabilities.

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 28 million people in the United States
4 have cognitive disabilities, such as intellectual disabilities,
5 persistent mental illness, brain injury, stroke and
6 neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's disease; and

7 WHEREAS, People with cognitive disabilities are entitled to
8 inclusion in our democratic society under Federal laws, such as
9 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Developmental
10 Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, the
11 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and section 504 of
12 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and under various State and
13 local laws; and

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

17 WHEREAS, People with cognitive disabilities must have access

1 to commercially available devices and software that incorporate
2 principles of universal design, such as flexibility and ease of
3 use for all; and

4 WHEREAS, Technology and information access by people with
5 cognitive disabilities must be guided by standards and best
6 practices, such as personalization and compatibility access
7 devices and platforms and through the application of innovation,
8 including automated and predictive technologies; and

9 WHEREAS, Security and privacy must be assured and managed to
10 protect civil rights and personal dignity of people with
11 cognitive disabilities; and

12 WHEREAS, Enhanced public and private funding is urgently
13 required to allow people with cognitive disabilities to utilize
14 technology and access information as a part of their right to
15 inclusion in our society; and

16 WHEREAS, Strong public policies help to guarantee access to
17 technology and information for people with cognitive
18 disabilities and their families; and

19 WHEREAS, Ensuring access to technology and information for
20 the 28 million people with cognitive disabilities in the United
21 States will create new markets and employment opportunities,
22 decrease dependency on public services, reduce healthcare costs
23 and improve the independence, productivity and quality of life
24 for people with cognitive disabilities; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the importance of
26 ensuring access to technology and information for individuals
27 with cognitive disabilities; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate affirm our commitment to equal
29 rights for people with cognitive disabilities to technology and
30 information access and call for implementation of such rights

1 with deliberate speed; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
3 the Governor of Pennsylvania and to each member of Congress from
4 Pennsylvania.