

House Concurrent Resolution No. 52

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES TORPEY (Sponsor) AND MCDONALD (Co-sponsor).

6551H.011

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 (ADA), the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 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

35 **WHEREAS**, enhanced public and private funding is urgently required to allow people
36 with cognitive disabilities to utilize technology and access information as a natural consequence
37 of their rights to inclusion in our society; and
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39 **WHEREAS**, ensuring access to technology and information for the twenty-eight million
40 people with cognitive disabilities in the United States will create new markets and employment
41 opportunities; decrease dependency on public services; reduce health care costs; and improve the
42 independence, productivity, and quality of life of people with cognitive disabilities:
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44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
45 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
46 concurring therein, hereby affirm their commitment to equal rights of people with cognitive
47 disabilities to technology and information access and call for implementation of these rights with
48 deliberate speed; and
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50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
51 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for each
52 member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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