

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 757

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should enact the Voters with Disabilities Bill of Rights to establish that voters with disabilities have equal access to the ballot as nondisabled persons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2021

Ms. WILD (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should enact the Voters with Disabilities Bill of Rights to establish that voters with disabilities have equal access to the ballot as nondisabled persons.

Whereas, according to the 2018 American Community Survey, 40,600,000 people with disabilities live in the United States, totaling approximately 13 percent of the non-institutionalized United States population;

Whereas researchers from the School of Management and Labor at Rutgers University found a continued gap in participation between voters with and without disabilities in the November 2020 elections;

Whereas a national survey sponsored by the Election Assistance Commission found that 11 percent of voters with disabilities experienced difficulties with voting in the November 2020 elections, nearly twice the rate of voters without disabilities;

Whereas, despite the size, diversity, and the interest of people with disabilities to participate in the United States electoral system, elections in the United States are woefully, inexcusably, and unjustly not fully accessible to all voters; and

Whereas, despite the demonstrated investment of the disabled community in elections, people with disabilities continue to turn out to vote at a lower rate than their nondisabled peers: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
 2 resentatives that Congress should enact the Voters with
 3 Disabilities Bill of Rights to establish that voters with dis-
 4 abilities have equal access to the ballot as nondisabled per-
 5 sons, including—

6 (1) ensuring that voters with disabilities have
 7 the right to a private and independent vote, whether
 8 voting in person or remotely;

9 (2) requiring that voters with disabilities have
 10 equal access to voter registration;

11 (3) ensuring that voters with disabilities have
 12 the right to request accommodations and materials
 13 in accessible formats while voting;

1 (4) requiring that voters with disabilities have
2 the right to the assistant of his or her choice while
3 voting, with the exception of the voter's employer or
4 union representative;

5 (5) ensuring that voters with disabilities have
6 the right to request to move to the front of the line
7 at polling places, or be provided seating or another
8 form of accommodation;

9 (6) ensuring that new ballots are made avail-
10 able for voters with disabilities who make mistakes
11 while filling out their ballots;

12 (7) ensuring that voters with disabilities have
13 the right to vote after the polls close if they are in
14 line, or waiting to vote curbside, prior to the polls
15 closing;

16 (8) requiring that voters with disabilities have
17 the right to request accommodations or an alter-
18 native method of casting their ballots if their polling
19 places are inaccessible;

20 (9) ensuring that people with disabilities who
21 have a guardian also have the right to vote and that
22 they can advocate to have their right to vote re-
23 stored, if it was taken away in the guardianship
24 process;

1 (10) requiring that voters with disabilities are
2 adequately able to report violations of their voting
3 rights and advocate on problems they experienced
4 while voting; and

5 (11) ensuring that voters with disabilities have
6 access to voting systems and materials in polling
7 places that are accessible and well-maintained.

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