



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1011

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Stephens, Becker, Buck, Buckner, Conti, Coram, Court, DelGrosso, Dore, Duran, Everett, Exum, Fields, Fischer, Foote, Garcia, Gardner, Gerou, Ginal, Hamner, Hullinghorst, Humphrey, Joshi, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, May, McCann, McLachlan, McNulty, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Murray, Navarro, Nordberg, Pabon, Peniston, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Rosenthal, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Schafer, Scott, Singer, Sonnenberg, Swalm, Szabo, Tyler, Vigil, Waller, Williams, Wilson, Wright, Young, Ferrandino;

also SENATOR(S) Aguilar, Balmer, Baumgardner, Brophy, Crowder, Grantham, Guzman, Harvey, Heath, Herpin, Hill, Hodge, Jahn, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, King, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Newell, Nicholson, Rivera, Roberts, Scheffel, Schwartz, Steadman, Tochtrop, Todd, Ulibarri, Zenzinger, Carroll.

CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE DISABILITIES TO TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION ACCESS.

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 of 1990", the "Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000", the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act", Section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973", as well as under state and local laws; and

WHEREAS, The 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

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

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

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we hereby affirm our commitment to equal rights for people with cognitive disabilities to technology and information access, and we call for implementation of these rights with deliberate speed.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution shall be delivered to Governor John Hickenlooper and the Colorado Congressional delegation.

Mark Ferrandino
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Morgan Carroll
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Cindi Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Colorado Makes Legislative History

On March 13, 2014, the Colorado Legislature made history in the field of developmental disabilities. The Colorado House and Senate both passed a Joint Resolution on the *"Declaration of The Rights of People with Cognitive Disabilities to Technology and Information Access"*. This bi-partisan nationally significant initiative was introduced in the House by Representative Amy Stephens (R) and by Senator Irene Aguilar (D) in the Senate. Every elected member of both the House and the Senate present at the time of the vote co-sponsored the Resolution. The Joint Resolution passed unanimously.

"The Declaration" was initially developed at The University of Colorado's 13th Annual Coleman Institute National Conference on Cognitive Disability and Technology, held October 12-13, 2013 in Broomfield, Colorado. Drafters of the Declaration included numerous leaders in the cognitive disability field in Colorado and nationally. The full text of the new Declaration may be viewed at the following site www.colemaninstitute.org/declaration

In addition to the Colorado Legislature's Resolution, The Declaration has been endorsed by major national disability organizations including The Arc of the United States, the nation's largest parent group, the American Association on Intellectual and Development Disabilities (AAIDD), the leading professional organization in the developmental disabilities field, and the American Network of Community Options and Resources in Developmental Disabilities (ANCOR)-- the nation's largest provider association, and Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE). Colorado, however, has just become the first legislative body in the United States to fully endorse the Declaration.

Today's historic legislative initiative in Colorado stems from exceptional leadership by David Ervin, CEO of The Resource Exchange in Colorado Springs and Mark Emery, President of Alliance Colorado and CEO of Imagine!-- the Community-Centered Board for Boulder and Broomfield counties. The Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities was represented by David Braddock, Senior Associate Vice President of the University of Colorado and Executive Director of the Coleman Institute, Enid Ablowitz and Shea Tanis.