

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 250

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding tactile currency for the blind and visually impaired.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24, 1996

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. SHELBY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding tactile currency for the blind and visually impaired.

Whereas currency is used by virtually everyone in everyday life, including blind and visually impaired persons;

Whereas the Federal reserve notes of the United States are inaccessible to individuals with visual disabilities;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act enhances the economic independence and equal opportunity for full participation in society for individuals with disabilities;

Whereas most blind and visually impaired persons are therefore required to rely upon others to determine denominations of such currency;

Whereas this constitutes a serious impediment to independence in everyday living;

Whereas electronic means of bill identification will always be more fallible than purely tactile means;

Whereas tactile currency already exists in 23 countries worldwide; and

Whereas the currency of the United States is presently undergoing significant changes for security purposes: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) endorses the efforts recently begun by the
3 Bureau of Engraving and Printing to upgrade the
4 currency for security reasons; and

5 (2) strongly encourages the Secretary of the
6 Treasury and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing
7 to incorporate cost-effective, tactile features into the
8 design changes, thereby including the blind and vis-
9 ually impaired community in independent currency
10 usage.

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