

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 122

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 1997

Mr. BAKER (for himself, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. LAZIO of New York, Mr. KING, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FROST, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. STARK, and Mr. RILEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services

RESOLUTION

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

Whereas currency is used by virtually everyone in every-
day life, including blind and visually impaired per-
sons;

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 dis-
abilities;

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 House of Representatives—

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.

○