Federal Bills of Interest

(*Listed from most recently seen or introduced to bills introduced long ago. Thanks to organizations like The Arc U.S., AUCD (Association for University Centers on Disabilities), Family Voices USA, and the National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities for tracking national disability laws and legislation.)*

1. [International Children with Disabilities Protection Act of 2023](https://www.foreign.senate.gov/press/dem/release/chairman-menendez-hails-committee-passage-of-bipartisan-international-children-with-disabilities-protection-act) – This bill bolsters U.S. support for children with disabilities and strengthens the ability of disability rights organizations and families to advocate for necessary reforms to protect these children.
2. [Protection and Advocacy in Education Act](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4481/text?s=6&r=2&q=*7B*22search*22*3A*5B*22disability*22*5D*7D__;JSUlJSUlJSUl!!PRtDf9A!tyI5jGEf8POHUVeJweuTWQ48BRKoAoqRUFewiiH_KRnRN4Ws9_TqDdbBqb0qUWVFgbd0lMMUxRFbhQ$) - This bill will create a Protection and Advocacy program that will make sure that students with disabilities are treated fairly in schools. (TN’s existing Protection and Advocacy agency is Disability Rights TN.) (**Disability Rights South Dakota**)
3. [Work Without Worry Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/2196?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22S.+2196%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1) (S. 2196) – This bill will make sure that people receiving Disabled Adult Child benefits do not lose their benefits if they start to work. If a parent receives social security and has a child with certain disabilities under age 22, like Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, and others that will last their entire life, these children may receive Disabled Adult Child benefits.
4. [Equality for Families with Disabilities Act](https://cherfilus-mccormick.house.gov/media/press-releases/congresswoman-cherfilus-mccormick-introduces-equality-families-disabilities) - This legislation seeks to eliminate discrimination against parents and guardians with disabilities in state child welfare proceedings.
5. [Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act](https://www.schatz.senate.gov/news/press-releases/schatz-wicker-lead-bipartisan-group-of-60-senators-in-reintroducing-legislation-to-expand-telehealth-access-make-permanent-telehealth-flexibilities) (H.R. 4189/S. 2016) – This bill will expand coverage of telehealth services through Medicare, make permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities, improve health outcomes, and make it easier for patients to connect with their doctors.
6. [Disability Access to Transportation (DATA) Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3845?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22disability%22%5D%7D&s=4&r=9) (H.R. 3845 / S. 1813) - The bill will help make public transportation, like trains, subways, and buses, more accessible for people with disabilities. The bills will provide money so that states and cities can also improve their paratransit systems. Paratransit systems help people with disabilities travel around a local area if they are unable to use the public transportation system.
7. [Healthcare Extension and Accessibility for Developmentally Disabled and Underserved Population Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3380?s=6&r=8&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22moulton%22%5D%7D) authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to award grants to support health centers that provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities, including dental care. Grant recipients must provide specialized treatment to individuals with developmental disabilities as necessary.
8. [Keeping All Students Safe Act (KASSA)](https://www.murray.senate.gov/senator-murray-colleagues-introduce-legislation-to-protect-students-from-dangerous-seclusion-and-restraint-practices/) would bar the use of seclusion and dangerous restraint practices at any school receiving federal taxpayer dollars.
9. [Mobility Aids On Board Improve Lives and Empower All (MOBILE) Act](https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/23.05.03%20MOBILE%20Act%20-%20One%20Pager%20CLEAN.pdf) would require Dept. of Transportation to take actions that empower passengers who use mobility aids, such as manual wheelchairs, powered wheelchairs and scooters, and improve those passengers' experiences when flying.
10. ["Words Matter" bill strikes ‘outdated and derogatory language’ on intellectual disability from federal law](https://thehill.com/homenews/house/3978042-bipartisan-bill-would-strike-outdated-and-derogatory-language-on-intellectual-disability-from-federal-law/)
11. [Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1332) (H.R. 2941/S. 1332) - This bill would create a standard occupational classification (SOC) code for direct support professionals (DSPs) through the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
12. [Supporting Our Direct Care Workforce and Family Caregivers Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1298) (S. 1298) would support the recruitment, training, and retention of direct care workers and family caregivers through grants to states and technical assistance through the Administration on Community Living.
13. [Keep Our Promise to America’s Children and Teachers Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1202?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22van+hollen%22%5D%7D&s=2&r=5) puts Congress on a 10-year track to provide sufficient funds to provide high-quality education to students with disabilities.
14. [Autism Family Caregivers Act](https://cuellar.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=408183) would establish a five-year pilot program that would award grants to nonprofit organizations, community health centers, and hospital systems to provide evidence-based caregiver skills training to family caregivers of children with autism or other developmental disabilities or delays.
15. [Visitable Inclusive Tax Credits for Accessible Living (VITAL) Act](https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/news/press/release/senator-gillibrand-pushes-to-provide-accessible-affordable-housing-for-older-americans-and-people-living-with-disabilities/) would increase investment in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program and ensure that developers are building more accessible housing units that are designed for older adults and people with disabilities. The bill would also help ensure that new units are located within communities where residents can walk or move around easily in wheelchairs.
16. [Latonya Reeves Freedom Act](https://cohen.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/congressman-cohen-introduces-latonya-reeves-freedom-act) - This bill strengthens the right of Americans with disabilities to receive Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) in settings of their choice. This includes prohibiting government entities and insurance providers from denying home- and community-based services to people with disabilities that need LTSS. The legislation is named in honor of Latonya Reeves, a woman who was forced to flee a Tennessee nursing home in the '90s and move to Colorado so she could access the care she needed to live independently.
17. [Promoting Responsible Emergency Protocols (PREP) for All Students Act](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.casey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/prep_for_all_students_act_118th_congress1.pdf__;!!PRtDf9A!pLv-GLjt5HAqeQyYEMOq4kQclhzxeZyuhpadtghvPa46FkSXx2w0qO7INq8lKd_x-ct6vKNfh5h07g$) ([S. 1072](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1072?q=*7B*22search*22*3A*5B*22S.*1072*22*5D*7D&s=7&r=1__;JSUlJSUlKyUlJQ!!PRtDf9A!pLv-GLjt5HAqeQyYEMOq4kQclhzxeZyuhpadtghvPa46FkSXx2w0qO7INq8lKd_x-ct6vKMFyXQHbw$)) - This bill will ensure “that public schools, early child care education centers, and institutions of higher education have the tools they need to develop inclusive emergency preparedness protocols.” Specifically, the PREP Act would establish a federal advisory council to develop guidelines for accessible, developmentally appropriate, culturally aware, and trauma informed emergency preparedness protocols.
18. [Response, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.casey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/rise_act_118th_congress.pdf__;!!PRtDf9A!pLv-GLjt5HAqeQyYEMOq4kQclhzxeZyuhpadtghvPa46FkSXx2w0qO7INq8lKd_x-ct6vKPIzvaKIQ$) [(S.1071](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1071?q=*7B*22search*22*3A*5B*22S.*1071*22*5D*7D&s=3&r=1__;JSUlJSUlKyUlJQ!!PRtDf9A!pLv-GLjt5HAqeQyYEMOq4kQclhzxeZyuhpadtghvPa46FkSXx2w0qO7INq8lKd_x-ct6vKNsIG_3zg$) / [H.R. 2401](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2401?q=*7B*22search*22*3A*5B*22H.*24*2C*2401*22*5D*7D&s=4&r=1__;JSUlJSUlJSUrJSUl!!PRtDf9A!pLv-GLjt5HAqeQyYEMOq4kQclhzxeZyuhpadtghvPa46FkSXx2w0qO7INq8lKd_x-ct6vKMXQqk-Jw$)) - This bill requires institutions of higher education to accept a student’s individualized education program (IEP), accommodation plan, or other prior evaluation as proof of disability when a student requests reasonable accommodations from a college or university, so they do not have to pay for additional evaluations. The bill also provides funding for technical assistance centers to train faculty on how to support students with disabilities and provides resources to students with disabilities and their families.
19. The [Safe Equitable Campus Resources and Education](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.casey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/secure_act_118th_congress1.pdf__;!!PRtDf9A!pLv-GLjt5HAqeQyYEMOq4kQclhzxeZyuhpadtghvPa46FkSXx2w0qO7INq8lKd_x-ct6vKNyS-W8CA$) (SECuRE) Act ([S. 1070](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1070?q=*7B*22search*22*3A*5B*22S.*1070*22*5D*7D&s=5&r=1__;JSUlJSUlKyUlJQ!!PRtDf9A!pLv-GLjt5HAqeQyYEMOq4kQclhzxeZyuhpadtghvPa46FkSXx2w0qO7INq8lKd_x-ct6vKNaaVRiIQ$) / [H.R. 2421](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2421?q=*7B*22search*22*3A*5B*22H.R.*2421*22*5D*7D&s=6&r=1__;JSUlJSUlKyUlJQ!!PRtDf9A!pLv-GLjt5HAqeQyYEMOq4kQclhzxeZyuhpadtghvPa46FkSXx2w0qO7INq8lKd_x-ct6vKOZFcTikg$)) - This bill will strengthen the Clery Act. It aims to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are included in campus planning and response to incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. It also requires that materials provided to the campus community are available in accessible formats for people with disabilities.
20. [The Guardianship Bill of Rights Act](https://www.aging.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/the_guardianship_bill_of_rights_one_pager.pdf) ([S.1148](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1148?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22guardianship%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1))- This bill would create a national council to look for better alternatives to guardianships (called "conservatorships" here in TN) and create a new state program to protect the rights of people with disabilities, similar to Disability Rights TN, for people being considered for or living under a guardianship.
21. [Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion (REAADI) for Disasters Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1049?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22S.+1049%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=6) ([S.1049](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1049?q=*7B*22search*22*3A*5B*22S.*1049*22*5D*7D&s=1&r=6__;JSUlJSUlKyUlJQ!!PRtDf9A!pLv-GLjt5HAqeQyYEMOq4kQclhzxeZyuhpadtghvPa46FkSXx2w0qO7INq8lKd_x-ct6vKPXZWrgEg$) / [H.R. 2371](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2371/cosponsors?s=1&r=1&q=*7B*22search*22*3A*5B*22H.R*3E*2371*22*5D*7D__;JSUlJSUlJSslJSU!!PRtDf9A!pLv-GLjt5HAqeQyYEMOq4kQclhzxeZyuhpadtghvPa46FkSXx2w0qO7INq8lKd_x-ct6vKPfvvxhow$)) - This bill will create programs so that people with disabilities are better included in the plans to stay safe during natural disasters, like hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and more.
22. [Clear and Concise Content Act](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/media/majority-media/peters-and-lankford-reintroduce-clear-and-concise-content-act/#:~:text=WASHINGTON%2C%20D.C.%20%E2%80%93%20U.S.%20Senators%20Gary,is%20written%20in%20plain%20language.). - The bill ensures that guidance, instructions, and other public information published by the federal government is written in plain language
23. [Better Care, Better Jobs Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/100?s=2&r=2) - S.100 - A bill to amend the Social Security Act to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) under Medicaid, and for other purposes.
24. [Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Access Act](https://www.aging.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/hcbs_access_act_one_pager1.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=51cbe48b-01ed-469f-8983-b9c191c5c371) - This bill would, over time, eliminate HCBS waiting lists and the need for states to repeatedly apply for HCBS waivers.
25. [Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act](https://democrats-edworkforce.house.gov/media/press-releases/scott-casey-mcmorris-rodgers-daines-to-reintroduce-bipartisan-bicameral-bill-to-help-workers-with-disabilities-find-good-paying-jobs) - Phases out paying workers with disabilities subminimum wage. (Note - [legislation passed](https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/112/Bill/SB2042.pdf) during TN's last legislative session in 2022 outlawing this practice in our state.)
26. [Air Carrier Access Amendments Act](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/click.emails.thearc.org/?qs=8b6e3d7a4b15a5e9e92ea1447297396a6e955bfbc2b15a536b3bd586cca2522513df1acf2bee44e43db5fa9a8080269856dd82d36770be6c__;!!PRtDf9A!oeSiBZsuICzDjbfZ1iczxge4RuOhaN-6UtA1FO9hjMxcO-g3dkghequLTagllBvphwLufo0iejRD6cKJ57A$)(S.545/H.R.1267). This bill improves the accessibility of air travel for people with disabilities by creating a private right of action for violations, requiring new airplanes to meet minimum accessibility standards, and requiring the removal of access barriers on existing planes where feasible.
27. [Prioritizing Accountability and Accessibility for Aviation Consumers Act](https://cohen.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/congressmen-cohen-and-fitzpatrick-introduce-prioritizing-accountability) - This bill aims to ensure that passengers with disabilities have up-to-date data on the Department of Transportation’s effectiveness in resolving disability-related complaints, ranging from untrained staff at the ticket counter to lost or damaged mobility aids to passenger injuries and more.