

1 Title: Designating April 17, 2024, as “National Assistive Technology Awareness Day”.
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4 Whereas assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to
5 increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a person with a disability or an
6 older adult;

7 Whereas an assistive technology service is any service that directly assists a person with a
8 disability or an older adult in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology
9 device;

10 Whereas, in 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 1 in 4 people in
11 the United States, or almost 61,000,000 individuals, have a disability;

12 Whereas, during the 2021–2022 school year, the Department of Education reported that there
13 were more than 7,300,000 children with disabilities;

14 Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, among adults 65 years of
15 age and older, 2 in 5 have a disability;

16 Whereas assistive technology enables people with disabilities and older adults to be included in
17 their communities and in inclusive classrooms and workplaces;

18 Whereas assistive technology devices and services are necessities, not luxury items, for millions
19 of people with disabilities and older adults, without which they would be unable to live in
20 their communities, access education, or obtain, retain, and advance gainful, competitive,
21 and integrated employment;

22 Whereas the availability of assistive technology in the workplace promotes economic self-
23 sufficiency, enhances work participation, and is critical to the employment of people with
24 disabilities and older adults; and

25 Whereas State assistive technology programs support a continuum of services that include—

26 (1) the exchange, repair, recycling, and other reutilization of assistive
27 technology devices;

28 (2) device loan programs that provide short-term loans of assistive
29 technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, and others;

30 (3) the demonstration of devices to inform decision making; and

31 (4) State financing to help individuals purchase or obtain assistive
32 technology through a variety of initiatives, such as financial loan
33 programs, leasing programs, and other financing alternatives that give
34 individuals affordable, flexible options to purchase or obtain assistive
35 technology: Now, therefore, be it

36 Resolved, That the Senate—

37 (1) designates April 17, 2024, as “National Assistive Technology Awareness Day”; and

38 (2) commends—

39 (A) assistive technology specialists and program coordinators for their hard work

1 and dedication in serving people with disabilities who are in need of finding the proper
2 assistive technology to meet their individual needs; and
3 (B) professional organizations and researchers dedicated to facilitating the access
4 and acquisition of assistive technology for people with disabilities and older adults in
5 need of assistive technology devices.