

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging the United States Congressional delegation to remove the penalty associated with being a married individual with a disability receiving supplemental security income benefits

WHEREAS, In the past, individuals with disabilities were not expected to fully participate as equal members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, In the past, individuals with disabilities were not perceived as capable of developing loving relationships with others; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities have the same need as people without disabilities to develop and maintain permanent loving relationships; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals with disabilities hold religious and moral beliefs that preclude them from living together as husband and wife without being married; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities want to marry and live as full members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities often depend on supplemental security income from federal social security and other governmental benefits for meeting their basic living requirements; and

WHEREAS, Social security law places strict limits on the amount of resources that individuals with disabilities are allowed to hold; and

WHEREAS, When two individuals with disabilities, each receiving supplemental security income get married, social security laws require that one of those individuals receive a reduced supplemental security income benefit as a marriage penalty; and

WHEREAS, Two unmarried individuals with disabilities living in the same residence each receive the full federal benefit rate; and

WHEREAS, Of the three major public income assistance programs, temporary assistance for needy families, food stamps and supplemental security income, supplemental security income is the only one to use marital status in determining the amount of an individual's benefit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the United States Congressional delegation be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to urge the United States Congressional delegation to remove the penalty associated with being a married individual with a disability receiving supplemental security income benefits; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to each member of the United States Congressional delegation.