

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



CHAIRMAN Special Committee on Aging

Federal Agency Accessibility Compliance Act (FAACA) of 2023

Why do we need the Federal Agency Accessibility Compliance Act (FAACA) of 2023?

Federal government services and information are now almost universally available on-line. You can [find health care statistics](#), [federal grant applications](#), [which countries are the riskiest to travel to](#), and the [expected rainfall for this autumn](#). That information is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. State Department, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), respectively. The federal government provides a vast array of services and information to the general public, all available through the internet. This information can help a person start a business, avoid a disaster, or select a college with a great graduation rate. And it can all be done within minutes.

However, for the 61 million Americans with disabilities, all of these services and information may not be available. Despite legislation passed over 35 years ago (Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act) requiring that federal websites and technology be accessible to people with disabilities many federal websites and agency documents on the web are not accessible to people who are blind, deaf, hard-of-hearing, have physical mobility disabilities, or cognitive disabilities. In their [January 2023 brief](#) on accessible Federal websites, the Department of Justice found that 74 percent of PDFs on agency websites were not fully accessible suggesting “poor policy and process controls” related to accessible public information.

What would the Federal Agency Accessibility Compliance Act (FAACA) do?

To increase compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, make federal services and information to the public more accessible, and increase accessibility for employees within the federal agencies, the FAACA would:

- Require each federal agency to have a Section 508 compliance officer responsible for accessing and reporting on the agency’s website and technology accessibility.
- Require each federal agency head to attest to the accessibility of the websites and technology of the agency.
- Require any federal agency not in compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act to publicly post a plan and timeline to meet accessibility standards.

Co-sponsor: Sen. Fetterman (PA)

Endorsing Organizations: *The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), The Arc of the United States, National Federation of the Blind (NFB), National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), American Federation of the Blind (AFB), and the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS).*

For more information or to cosponsor, contact Michael Gamel-McCormick (michael_gamel-mccormick@aging.senate.gov).