



Office of Disability Policy Act

Why do we need the Office of Disability Policy Act?

Landmark legislation such as the Americans with Disability Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provided long lasting and substantial benefits to members of the disability community, their families and their communities. Due to the goals and values of the policy makers and advocates who helped to pass these laws, the legislation received immense scrutiny and analysis before and after passage in order to understand the impact on the disability community. Unfortunately, hundreds of bills and regulations are proposed and enacted every year without the same level of analysis on their impact in the disability community. Too many policy makers fail to consider how their bill or proposed regulation will affect Americans with disabilities and their family members.

Individuals with disabilities, their family members, service providers and advocates deserve to understand the positive or negative affects executive actions or legislation will have on their lives. A federal office dedicated to analyzing proposed legislation and regulations would provide Americans and their policy makers with the knowledge to fully understand how federal actions will affect individuals with disabilities.

What will the Office of Disability Policy Act do?

The Office of Disability Policy Act establishes an Office of Disability Policy within the Government Accountability Office to provide an analysis of how proposed Federal legislation, proposed regulations and proposed guidance will affect individuals with disabilities, their families, and those who support individuals with disabilities by providing services. The Office will conduct reviews, upon the request of members of Congress, and produce an annual report on the bills and regulations enacted and considered that will affect the disability community.

Section-By-Section Summary

Section 1 – Title

This section officially names the legislation the Office of Disability Policy Act of 2018.

Section 2 – Establishment of the Office of Disability Policy

This section amends Chapter 7 of the U.S. Code, which established the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and creates the Office of Disability Policy within the GAO. This section details the purpose of the Office to provide a timely and accurate analysis of the effect of proposed legislation, regulation, and guidance on people with disabilities, their families, and service providers. This section also describes the process for policy makers to request an analysis, and the requirements for the office to produce an annual report of the effect of legislation, regulation and guidance on people with disabilities, their families, and service providers. Importantly, this section also lays out the requirement that all analyses conducted by this Office be made available to the public.

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