

House Concurrent Resolution No. 30

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5006L.021

Whereas, universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable
2 by all persons, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaption or specialized
3 design; and
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Whereas, the intent of universal design is to simplify life for everyone by making
5 products, communications, and homes more usable by as many persons as possible at little or no
6 extra cost; and
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Whereas, the average lifespan has increased to age 76, with nearly 80 percent of
9 the population living past the age of 65. Projections based on the United States Census Bureau
10 estimates indicate that the number of persons ages 65 and over will grow to almost 40 million
11 by the year 2010 and by the year 2020 the number of persons over the age of 85 will be between
12 7 and 8 million; and
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Whereas, more people are living with disability, with an estimated 8.6 million
15 persons having difficulty with one or more activities of daily living and 4.1 million persons
16 needing personal assistance of some kind; and
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Whereas, universal design strives to integrate persons with disabilities into the
19 mainstream and recognizes the significant limitations imposed by products and environments
20 designed and built without regard to the needs and rights of all citizens of this nation and state;
21 and
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24 **Whereas**, with the potential consumers utilizing universal design homes who may
25 be functionally limited by age or disability increasing at a dramatic rate, these populations are
26 no longer an insignificant or silent minority; and
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28 **Whereas**, the current generation of children, baby boomers entering middle age,
29 older adults, persons with disabilities, and individuals inconvenienced by circumstance constitute
30 a market majority, and these constituencies and all consumers deserve to be recognized and
31 respected; and
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33 **Whereas**, the use of no-step entries, and wider entryways, hallways, interior
34 doorways, and bathroom and kitchen spaces will benefit all consumers as well as those persons
35 with disabilities; and
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37 **Whereas**, the State of Missouri should endorse the concept of universal design in
38 new home construction and encourage builders to utilize universal design features that make
39 homes safer, more convenient, and comfortable for all persons regardless of age, size, or ability:
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41 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
42 Representatives of the Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
43 concurring therein, hereby endorse the concept of universal design in the construction of new
44 homes, products, and environments, and encourage builders to utilize universal design features
45 in the construction of new homes.