



**28th SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND SENATE
26th APRIL 2023**

**BILL #5221
I Can't Believe it's Not Buttons Act!**

WRITTEN BY: Ruairi Low, Accessibility Officer, DEI Affairs Committee, Senator, Student Disability Center; Sammy Trout, Chair, University Affairs Committee, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Mia Ritter, Chair, Budgetary Affairs Committee, Senator, Native American Cultural Center;

COLLABORATED WITH:

SPONSORED BY: Adrian Salazar, Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Affairs Committee, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Reham Abdunabi, Senator, Asian Pacific Cultural Center; Alex Silverhart, Director, Health and Wellness;

ENDORSED BY: Ariadne Athey, Senator, Student Disability Center; Charlie Williamson, Director, Diversity and Inclusion; Treasure Morgan, Senator, Native American Cultural Center; Justin Dove, Director, Student Disability Center; John Fast, Interim Coordinator of Deaf/Hard of Hearing Accommodations, Student Disability Center; Annie Cunningham, Accommodations Specialist, Student Disability Center; Lynsey Fenter, Accommodations Specialist, Student Disability Center; Theo Reese, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Enock Monanti, Associate Senator, Pride Resource Center; University Affairs Committee; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Affairs Committee; Christian Kilburn, College of Liberal Arts; Claudia Parasio, Senator, Black/African American Cultural Center; Mitch Perque, Associate Senator, Pride Resource Center; Internal Affairs Committee

ABSTRACT: This bill seeks transparency and accountability with maintenance and repair of infrastructure critical to the safety of people with disabilities who work and attend Colorado State University through the creation of an Accessibility Caucus with the purpose of investigating door buttons that are broken or in disrepair.

WHEREAS

Uncleared walkways due to inclement weather creates significant transportation barriers for those who rely on mobility tools and aids; and,

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Broken door buttons on campus buildings make it difficult to enter and exit buildings safely for those who use mobility tools and aids; and,

WHEREAS

Broken elevators in buildings with heavy foot traffic prevent people who use mobility tools and aids from accessing entire floors of buildings; and,

WHEREAS

Lack of reliable transportation options for people with permanent and temporary disabilities on campus leaves them vulnerable to further injury, poor performance with work and academics, and/or ability to participate in CSU and Fort Collins community events; and,

WHEREAS

There is infrequent communication and information available from the University to help people with disabilities navigate campus due to access barriers from the circumstances mentioned above; and,

WHEREAS

According to the CSU Principles of Community for Inclusion, “We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents, and contributions; and,

WHEREAS

Colorado State University is a recipient of federal and state funding which means they must be in compliance with all relevant civil rights legislation that protect people with disabilities from discrimination, not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, and The Rehabilitation Act, to name a few examples; and,

WHEREAS

Former ASCSU President Christian Dykson, SDC Senators, and the Liberal Arts Dean Leadership Council’s ADA Task Force went to multiple individual door buttons across campus during the 2021-2022 academic year to check their functionality, including an audit of the Clark Building in 2019¹, and found that a majority of the buttons were not functional in some way shape or form. Additionally, other academic and housing buttons were reported to have similar issues; and,

WHEREAS

The 51st Senate allocated \$8,000 to the Committee for Disabled Student Accessibility under Bill #5129² to fund an automatic door opener at the men’s restroom on the first floor of the Pathology Building and any other projects that would help increase accessibility campus-wide; and,

WHEREAS



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Outside of representatives from the Student Disability Center and the Director of Diversity and Inclusion, there is no dedicated body in ASCSU tasked with ensuring accessibility on campus, let alone one that is specifically tasked with investigating and responding to accessibility faults on campus; and,

WHEREAS

While one of the responsibilities of The Director of Diversity and Inclusion is to perform accessibility audits in collaboration with Facilities, The Director has multiple responsibilities that make thorough audits difficult to achieve working alone as an individual; and,

WHEREAS

The Accessibility Officer in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Affairs Committee has a much narrower scope of responsibilities, such as making sure that all legislation is accessible and ensuring Senate and Senate Leadership as a whole are held accountable to the accessibility clause of the ASCSU Constitution, that do not encompass campus wide audits; and,

WHEREAS

The creation of an Accessibility Caucus in ASCSU would not only be able to investigate and respond to accessibility fault on campus, it would also solidify a collaborative accessibility partnership between the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and CSU students who are dedicated to ensuring efficient accessibility and accommodations on campus; **so,**

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That this bill seeks the creation of an Accessibility Caucus with the sole purpose of investigating broken and/or damaged door buttons to determine the cost for repairs and maintenance; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Accessibility Caucus will draft a report to inform ASCSU, the Student Body, and the CSU Administration about the status of door buttons; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the following report generated by the Accessibility Caucus will be made available in formats such as .docx and .pdf to be accessible to those who rely on screen readers and other assistive technology; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED



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That the Accessibility Caucus must complete their investigation over the Summer and report no later than the 6th Session of the 53rd Senate after the establishment of the Caucus in order to address door buttons in disrepair in a timely manner; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Accessibility Caucus is expected to collaborate with the Student Disability Center when seeking additional support, solutions, or advice; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Accessibility Caucus shall operate under the “Nothing about us without us” doctrine, which is an idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members of the group(s) affected by that policy; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Accessibility Caucus must collaborate with all three branches of ASCSU to address door button functionality as accessibility is the work of all of us; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the 52nd Senate of the Associated Students of Colorado State University takes a stand against audism, ableism, healthism, and sanism in all it's forms; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the 52nd Senate of the Associated Students of Colorado State University calls on the Office of Inclusive Excellence, the Office of the President, Deans and/or Department Heads of the various Departments and Colleges; and CSU administration not otherwise mentioned to make campus wide accessibility a top priority for the 2023-2024 Academic Year; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That all future ASCSU Senates repropose the Accessibility Caucus, or any successor caucus(es), subcommittee(s), or committee(s) with similar jurisdictions as the proposed Accessibility Caucus, when concerns are raised about door button functionality or other major access barriers on campus to demonstrate commitment to inclusion of Disabled, D/deaf, Hard of Hearing (HoH), Blind, Visually Impaired, Mentally Ill, Mad, Chronically Ill, and Neurodivergent people at Colorado State University; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the 52nd Senate of the Associated Students of Colorado State University calls on CSU to act swiftly and effectively to address numerous accessibility concerns across campus beyond



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functioning door buttons to live up to both the Principle of Community and ensure compliance with all relevant civil rights legislation for people with disabilities; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Amy Parson, Colorado State University President; Rick Miranda Colorado State University Interim Executive Vice President; Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Kauline Cipriani, Vice President for Inclusive Excellence; Dr. Shannon Archibeque-Engle, Associate Vice President for Inclusive Excellence; Ria Vigil, Assistant Vice President for Inclusive Excellence; JoAnn Cornell, Director, Asian Pacific American Cultural Center; Duan Ruff, Director, Black/African American Cultural Center; Ty. A Smith, Director, Native American Cultural Center; Maggie Hendrickson, Director, Pride Resource Center; Justin Dove, Director, Student Disability Center; The Future (Interim) Director of the Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Aaron Escobedo Garmon, Interim Director of El Centro; Ben Schrader, Director, Adult Learner and Veteran Services; Ben Withers, Dean, College of Liberal Arts; Alonso Aguirre, Dean, Warner College of Natural Resources; Karen Estlund, Dean, Libraries; David McLean, Dean, Walter Scott Jr. College of Engineering; James Pritchett, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences; Simon Tavener, Dean, College of Natural Sciences; Sue VandeWoude, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences; Beth Walker, Dean, College of Business; Lisa Youngblade, Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences; Rob Long, ASCSU President; Elijah Sandoval, ASCSU Vice President; Charlie Williamson, Director, Diversity and Inclusion; Alex Silverhart, Director, Health and Wellness; Marcus Zacarias, Chief Justice, ASCSU Supreme Court; Kelley Dungan, Deputy Chief Justice, ASCSU Supreme Court; Nicholas DeSalvo, Speaker, ASCSU Senate; Kimberly Carracedo-Perez, Speaker Pro-Tempore, ASCSU Senate; Adrian Salazar, Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Affairs Committee, Senator, Pride Resource Center, Appointees of the Colorado Disability Services in Higher Education Advisory Committee

**PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF BILL 5221
28th SESSION**

APPROVED VIA VOICE VOTE

26 APRIL 2023

SENATE PASSAGE

DATE



ASCSU PRESIDENT ROBERT LONG

DATE

RESOURCE:

- 1.) [Liberal Arts Dean Leadership ADA Task Force 2019 Clark Accessibility Report](#)
 - 2.) [Bill #5129, Funding Accessibility](#)
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THAT THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO:

Tony Frank, Chancellor of the CSU System
Amy Parsons, President of Colorado State University
Rick Miranda, Interim Executive Vice President of Colorado State University
Blanche Hughes, CSU Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Kauline Cipriani, Vice President for Inclusive Excellence
Dr. Shannon Archibeque-Engle, Associate Vice President for Inclusive Excellence
Ria Vigil, Assistant Vice President for Inclusive Excellence
JoAnn Cornell, Director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center
Duan Ruff, Director of the Black/African American Cultural Center
Future (Interim) Director of El Centro
Maggie Hendrickson, Director of the Pride Resource Center
Tyrone Smith, Director of the Native American Cultural Center
Justin Dove, Director of the Student Disability Center
Future (Interim) Director of the Women and Gender Advocacy Center
Ben Schrader, Director, Adult Learner and Veteran Services
Ben Withers, Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Alonso Aguirre, Dean, Warner College of Natural Resources
David McLean, Dean, Walter Scott Jr. College of Engineering
James Pritchett, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences
Simon Tavener, Dean, College of Natural Sciences
Sue VandeWoude, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Beth Walker, Dean, College of Business
Lisa Youngblade, Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences
Karen Estlund, Dean, Libraries
Rob Long, ASCSU President
Elijah Sandoval, ASCSU Vice President
Charlie Williamson, Director, Diversity and Inclusion

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Alex Silverhart, Director, Health and Wellness

Nicholas DeSalvo, Speaker, ASCSU Senate

Ava Ayala, Speaker Elect, ASCSU Senate

Kimberly Carracedo-Perez, Speaker Pro-Tempore, ASCSU Senate

Adrian Salazar, Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Affairs Committee, Senator, Pride Resource Center

Marcus Zacarias, Chief Justice, ASCSU Supreme Court

Kelley Dungan, Deputy Chief Justice, ASCSU Supreme Court

Dr. Angie Paccione, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education

Appointees of the Colorado Disability Services in Higher Education Advisory Committee

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INTRODUCTION DATE/SESSION:

ARCHIVE DATE:

COMMITTEE'S REVIEWED:

MONETARY? Y/N