



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI PROVIDES GUIDE TO CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES  
IN DEVELOPING POLICES TO ACCOMMODATE STAFF,  
CONSTITUENTS, VISITORS LIVING WITH ACCESS NEEDS***

**Washington, D.C.** – Saying “No one should be precluded from visiting their elected officials, attending hearings, or participating in events in Congress because of physical or communication barriers,” U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today sent a newly-prepared “Guide to Assisting Office Personnel and Visitors with Accessibility Needs,” to all Congressional offices.

The guide, which Enzi said he hopes will build on the work done by the Senate’s Sergeant at Arms, and give Senators and their staffs ideas and suggestions to help address the needs of staff, constituents and visitors with access needs, contains materials dealing with basic rules of etiquette, emergency preparedness, and the importance of accessible room design.

In a “Dear Colleague” letter accompanying the guide, Enzi wrote: “Unfortunately, many of our constituents with disabilities have difficulties accessing their elected officials, attending hearings, and participating in other events here in Congress because of physical, attitudinal, and communication barriers that prohibit it or make it very difficult.”

“Within the guide you will find procedures and options that will address the needs of those with a wide range of disabilities,” he added. “Feel free to use it as you continue to develop various policies and procedures for accommodating those with disabilities who work in or visit your office.”

Over 51 million Americans are currently living with one or more disabilities. As technology and medicine improve and the baby-boomers generation continues to age, the country will experience a rapid increase in the number of people living with disabilities, Enzi said.

The 25-page guide was prepared by the Minority Staff of the Senate HELP Committee with the assistance of 18 offices and organizations inside and outside

government. The guide, and Enzi's "Dear Colleague" letter, distributed today can be viewed on line by visiting [http://help.senate.gov/Min\\_press/min\\_press\\_2008.html](http://help.senate.gov/Min_press/min_press_2008.html).

**Organizations involved in the development of the Guide include:**

American Council of the Blind  
Architect of the Capitol  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Congressional Special Services  
Easter Seals  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Gallaudet University  
Goodwill Industries International  
Institute for Educational Leadership  
Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
National Federation of the Blind  
Office of Compliance  
Sergeant at Arms  
Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc.  
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy Disability Policy  
Collaboration  
United Spinal Association  
Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council

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