With bipartisan support from Senators Grassley, Feinstein, Hatch, Leahy, Menendez and Harris, the Senate Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committees jointly introduced S.2559 bringing the United States one step closer to dramatically increasing the availability of accessible content for people with print disabilities in the U.S. and around the world.

2018 Request

A full Senate vote is expected this summer. Call your Senator and ask them to support S.2559.

Background

The U.S. played the leading role in crafting an international treaty based on the U.S. copyright Chafee Amendment at a diplomatic conference in Marrakesh in 2013. All key U.S. stakeholders—including groups representing people with print disabilities, the American Library Association, other national library groups, and the publishing community—have reached consensus on the legislation. United States implementation will encourage other nations to adopt an exception in their own laws, increasing access to information for all and helping address a critical human rights concern.

Key Facts

The Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act:

- Improves the US copyright “Chafee Amendment” U.S.C. 17 §121 by enlarging the beneficiaries of the exception to the print disabled—people who are blind or have low vision to people who are dyslexic, have learning disabilities or physical disabilities that prevent one from using traditional print

- Expands accessible formats to include digital formats

- Allows countries that ratify the treaty to share accessible copies, reducing the “book famine” for those who have little access to content

- Increases the availability of non-English accessible content, and more efficiently getting accessible content in the hands of people who need it

- Extends the authority to make and deliver accessible content to non-governmental institutions including libraries.