The AIDA Act: A National AI Disability Standard

Congressional Summary | November 2026 | Basil C. Puglisi, MPA

THE ASK

1. Establish the three questions. Set in law three questions that show when AI is a disability tool, for every kind of disability, physical and mental. Agencies and institutions adopt them as a method.

2. Call for a national acknowledgment. Direct a uniform system for acknowledging standing, built the way the parking placard is built. Its privacy rule binds once it exists.

3. Convene the community, and decide what only Congress can. Send the open design questions to a rulemaking with the disability community. Choose the issuer, the recognition model, and the answer to the Social Security question.

Phase 0 requires no new appropriation.

The Problem

People with disabilities use general-purpose AI to read, write, remember, and communicate around functional barriers. The author calls that use Artificially Intelligent Disability Assistance (AIDA). The Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 already protect that use. What is missing is a shared set of questions and a form of standing the next institution recognizes, so each institution decides alone. The person is punished by refusal, by a detector's reading, and by a label that costs readers and trust.

The Answer

The law did not change when the tool did. The country already answered this kind of problem once, for the reserved parking space.

Parking	ABLE account	AI as a disability tool
The law reserves the space. The placard shows who may use it	A Social Security award opens the first route. Others certify and keep the diagnosis	**The law protects the use. The AI Disability Standard asks three questions about it and gives standing a recognized form**

The three questions. What is the barrier, named as a function and not as a diagnosis? What does the AI do about that barrier? What can the person now do, keep doing, or do better? The answers are considered case by case.

The acknowledgment. It would show entitlement only: an identification number, an expiration date, and the issuer's mark, with no diagnosis and no disability symbol. It would be optional for the person and never a gate.

Legislative Actions

Action	Mechanism
Establish the three questions	Congress recognizes them, and the lead agency publishes them for adoption. No new duty is created
Direct a uniform system	An acknowledgment on the 1988 parking model, with a privacy rule that binds. Congress chooses how far recognition is required
Choose the issuer, and convene the community	Congress selects the issuer from a menu. The open design questions go to a rulemaking with the disability community at the table
Decide the Social Security question	Whether the no-inference rule binds the agency, with the ABLE statute as one precedent
Keep enforcement, and give institutions a reason to adopt	No new penalty and no new limit on damages. Title I's good-faith rule stands, and other recipients are offered procurement and grant paths

The cited statutes and studies are established by others. The three questions and the acknowledgment design are the author's working instruments, applied so far to hypothetical cases. Documents 2 to 4 provide the brief, the framework, and the specification.

This is a starting path and not a finished product. It carries the objections to its own proposal and holds one position as its own: the same standard, a different means, and no punishment for the attempt. The author is not a lawyer, and this summary is not legal et el

Basil C. Puglisi, MPA | me@basilpuglisi.com | basilpuglisi.com | *Contact to discuss the framework or schedule a briefing.*

#AIassisted using the HAIA Ecosystem | CC BY-NC-SA 4.0