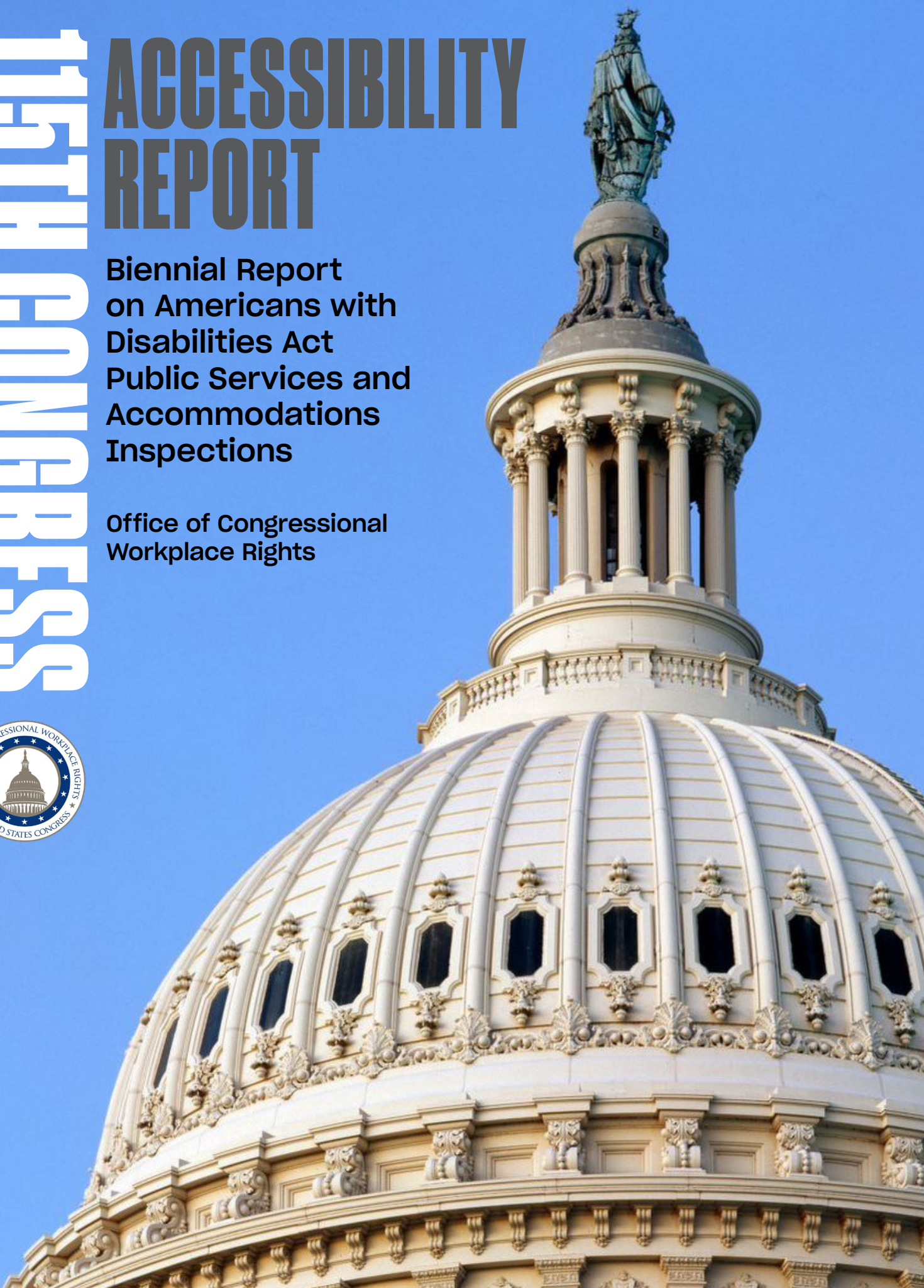


**115TH CONGRESS**

# **ACCESSIBILITY REPORT**

**Biennial Report  
on Americans with  
Disabilities Act  
Public Services and  
Accommodations  
Inspections**

**Office of Congressional  
Workplace Rights**



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# STATEMENT FROM THE GENERAL COUNSEL

As provided in section 210(f)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA), 2 U.S.C. § 1331(f)(1), at least once each Congress, the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) is required to inspect the facilities of the covered entities in the legislative branch for compliance with the public services and accommodations provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). On the basis of each periodic inspection, the OGC must prepare and submit a report containing the results of the inspection. 2 U.S.C. § 1341(f)(2).

The reports that we issue and make public at least once each Congress summarize the detailed reports we provide to legislative branch offices throughout the inspection period. During our ADA inspections, we work with offices to identify barriers to access by comparing existing conditions with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (the most recent standards). When we find a condition that is not in compliance with the 2010 Standards, we make a finding identifying the condition as a barrier to access and report it as such. Not all barriers to access are necessarily violations of the ADA. In some cases, the condition may be in compliance with the 1991 Standards, but not the 2010 Standards, making the condition “safe harbored” until the area is renovated or altered. In other cases, there may be technical feasibility or historicity issues that render compliance with the standard extremely difficult or even impossible. In those cases, we work with the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and other employing offices to find other ways to address the accessibility issues. While not all barriers to access are necessarily violations of the ADA, we believe it is important to identify all barriers to access so that these issues can be addressed when planning future projects.



As noted in this report, we continue to make substantial progress in improving accessibility on the Capitol Hill campus. The most recent report from the AOC, which is attached to this report, indicates that 56% of the findings from the 114th Congress have been closed and that there are planned engineering solutions being developed for the remaining 44% of the findings. For the 115th Congress, 31% of the findings have been closed, and the remaining 69% are being addressed by the development of planned engineering solutions.

We once again thank the AOC and the other employing offices for working with us to develop and implement solutions to the barriers that have been identified.

**JOHN D. UELMEN**  
**General Counsel**

# OCWR OGC ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM



Under Section 210 of the CAA, the OGC enforces the public services and accommodations provisions found in Titles II and III of the ADA. These provisions mandate that public services and accommodations, including the facilities where these services are provided, be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

The OGC has found that educating the legislative branch community about the accessibility requirements of the ADA is one of the most effective ways to improve access. From in-person training to video content to the office's YourRights@Work and Fast Fact publications series, we provide a range of resources to help employing offices learn about their obligations under the ADA. Our goal is to empower employing offices with the information they need to make their spaces accessible to individuals with disabilities. We conduct our biennial inspections of legislative branch facilities and grounds on the Hill with that goal in mind.

Our inspections help offices identify areas where improvement is needed and consider suggestions to improve accessibility. We also use the inspection results to develop educational resources for use by the offices to improve access. Since the inception of our inspection program, we have seen tremendous progress in improved accessibility of the Capitol complex facilities.

This report highlights some of the most significant areas of improvement on the Hill and summarizes the results of our 115th Congress ADA inspections.

# OCWR OGC ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM

## THE ADA BARRIER REMOVAL PROCESS

Since the 111th Congress, the OGC has utilized a barrier identification survey approach to document accessibility barriers during its inspections. This involves:

1. identifying barriers to access, as measured against the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (Standards);
2. assessing the severity of each barrier to quantify the need for removal; and
3. evaluating potential solutions to the barriers based upon cost and need.

To maximize resources, each biennial inspection focuses on specific facilities or grounds. Within each facility, we focus on the areas that are accessible to the public, such as entrances/exits, bathrooms, elevators, and interior routes.

During the 115th Congress, the OGC continued its contractual relationship with Evan Terry Associates, P.C. to utilize its ADA survey software to implement the barrier-removal survey approach on the Capitol Hill campus.

Individual barriers are assigned a severity code of either A, B, C, or D.

## ADA BARRIER SEVERITY CODES

- A. Safety Consideration
- B. Blocks Access
- C. Major Inconvenience
- D. Minor Inconvenience

These codes signify how much the barrier deviates from the 2010 Standards and the relative impact of this deviation on individuals with a disability.

Consistent with how ADA surveys are usually conducted for private corporations and government entities, the OGC does not record D-coded severities in its surveys because the deviation at issue in these barriers have little impact upon accessibility. Consequently, the cost to correct the deviation usually far exceeds any benefit that would result from correcting the deviation.

In addition to the standard severity codes A-D, barriers may be assigned a severity code of G, which means that the element in question did not meet the requirements of the 2010 Standards but did meet the requirements of the 1991 Standards, which, in some cases, are less strict. Under the ADA, G-coded barriers do not need to be corrected unless the element in question has been altered or replaced since the 2010 Standards became enforceable. If the element has not been altered or replaced, it qualifies for the “safe harbor” exception, and the responsible party does not need to take further action until it alters or replaces the element. The OGC still notifies employing offices of G-coded barriers identified in their facilities so that these offices can better plan for alterations and replacements.



# 115TH CONGRESS INSPECTION RESULTS OVERVIEW

During the 115th Congress, the OGC inspected over 12 facilities and grounds on Capitol Hill, including the:

- ✦ Adams, Madison, and Jefferson buildings of the Library of Congress;
- ✦ Cafeterias, restaurants, and gift shops in legislative branch Capitol Hill facilities, including in the Library of Congress, the House and Senate office Buildings, and the Capitol Visitor Center;
- ✦ Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn House Office Buildings (Member offices and cafeterias/restaurants only);
- ✦ Ford House Office Building;
- ✦ Exterior route adjacent to the Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Federal Office Building; and
- ✦ United States Capitol Police Headquarters.

**TOTAL BARRIERS:**  
**1,996**

Within these facilities and grounds, we identified 1,996 barriers to access. During this inspection, the Ford House Office Building had the highest number of barriers, followed by the Library of Congress Madison and Jefferson buildings.

Facility	Total barriers	% of Total
Ford House Office Building	548	27.45%
Library of Congress Madison Building	455	22.80%
Library of Congress Jefferson Building	269	13.48%
United States Capitol Visitor Center	183	9.17%
Rayburn House Office Building	182	9.12%
Library of Congress Adams Building	123	6.16%
Longworth House Office Building	106	5.31%
Cannon House Office Building	82	4.11%
Dirksen Senate Office Building	29	1.45%
Russell Senate Office Building	13	0.65%
United States Capitol Police Headquarters	5	0.25%
Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Federal Office Building	1	0.05%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## BARRIER CATEGORIES

For identification purposes, we categorize the barriers into barrier types. The different types generally reflect the particular type of object found to be inaccessible or the area in the facility or Capitol Hill campus where we identified the barrier, such as in a restroom or in an elevator lobby.

In the 115th Congress, the most commonly identified category by far was multi-user restrooms. Nearly half of all the barriers, 900 out of 1,996, were identified in this category.

After multi-user restrooms, the next highest category was self-service displays & racks, with 267 barriers. (The self-service displays & racks category includes barriers related to literature racks, candy dishes, and similar items being placed too high or too low for someone using a wheelchair to reach them.) The door category total includes eight barriers that were assigned as “whole facility” barriers because the issue is present throughout the entire facility as opposed to a single office or space. The remaining categories had much lower totals.



Barrier Category	Total	Percentage of total
Multi-User Restrooms	900	45.09%
Self-Service Displays & Racks	267	13.38%
Doors	134 <sup>1</sup>	6.71%
Interior Routes	131	6.56%
Drinking Fountains	129	6.46%
Restaurants & Cafeterias	116	5.81%
Signage	107	5.36%
Telephones	65	3.26%
Single-User Restrooms	38	1.90%
Stairs	38	1.90%
Elevator Cabs	18	0.90%
Business & Mercantile	13	0.65%
Ramps	11	0.55%
Alarms	10	0.50%
Showers	8	0.40%
Elevator Lobbies	6	0.30%
ATMs	4	0.20%
Exterior Routes	1	0.05%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

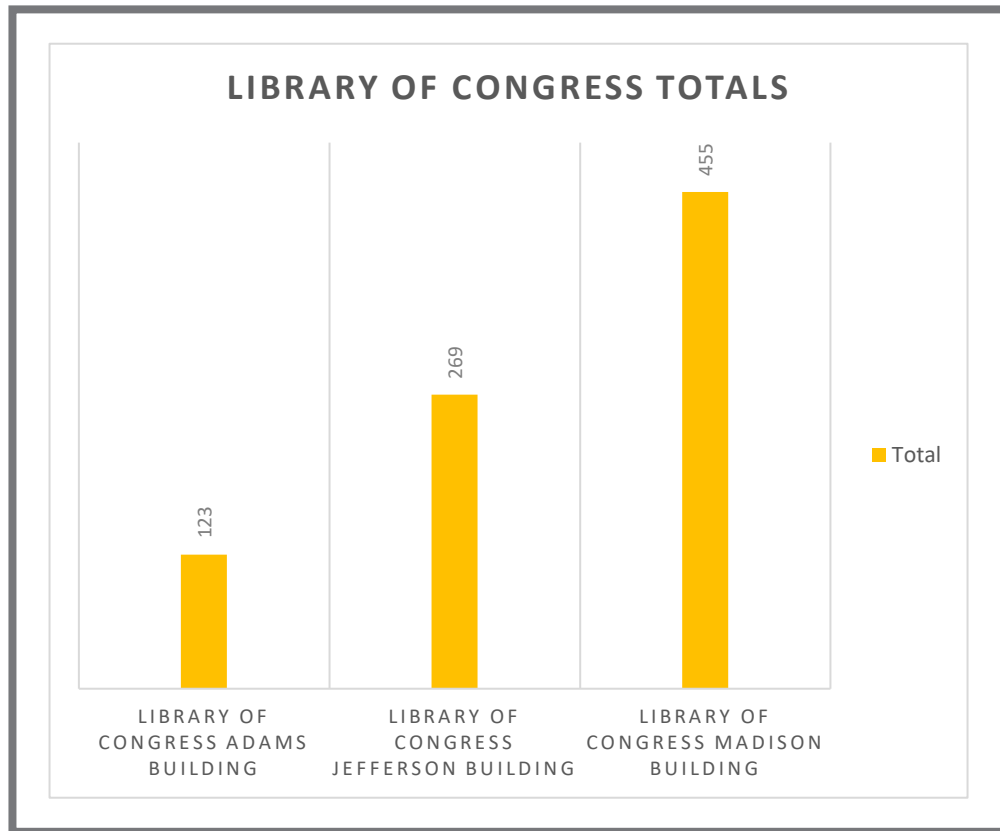
<sup>1</sup>This total includes whole facility barriers. While whole facility barriers are counted as “single” barriers in the total listed above, there is actually a much higher incidence of that type of barrier in certain facilities.

# INSPECTION RESULTS BY FACILITY: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The first facilities that we inspected during the 115th Congress were the Library of Congress Adams, Jefferson, and Madison buildings.

As with our other inspections, we focused on the areas of the building that are accessible to the public, such as the building entrances/exits, interior routes, and restrooms, as well as the reading rooms, which are unique to the Library facilities. We also looked at the restaurants and cafeterias, which are popular eating choices for people visiting the Hill.

We identified 847 barriers in the Library facilities. Madison had the highest number, at 455 barriers, which is over half of the total amount. Jefferson had the second highest total at 269 barriers, and Adams had 123 barriers.





## MADISON BUILDING



We identified 455 total barriers in Madison, which was more than half of the total barriers from the Library overall. While some of these barriers are “safe harbored” because the condition complies with the 1991 Standards, but not the 2010 Standards, most of the Madison barriers were from the multi-user restrooms, with common specific issues ranging from coat hooks that were mounted too high to the toilet paper dispenser being mounted outside of the appropriate reach range. These types of issues are problematic because someone using a wheelchair or who has a disability that impacts their reaching ability will not be able to readily hang their jacket or purse on the hook or be able to reach the toilet paper. These issues could make going to the restroom a very complicated experience.

### Common Barrier Types - Madison

Restroom barriers are particularly important to address because of the inherent need for privacy and independence that this space requires. Unlike in an office setting, where it is more likely that an employee will be available to assist a visitor with a disability in case there is a barrier, this is generally not the case in a bathroom. Even if there was someone available to assist, people want to be able to use the restroom independently whether they have a disability or not, and compliance with the Standards makes this possible. Employing offices should consider this as they prioritize how barriers will be addressed.

## MOST COMMON BARRIER TYPES

<b>Multi-User Restrooms</b>	<b>236</b>
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Telephones</b>	<b>52</b>

Other common barrier categories in Madison were drinking fountains, which had 77 total barriers, and telephones, which had 52 total barriers. With the drinking fountains, there were two issues: 1) some drinking fountains were too tall and projected too far out from the wall and 2) there was not enough knee and toe clearance at the fountains. Both of the issues are challenging for individuals who use wheelchairs. With the telephones, the most common issue was the lack of volume control on the telephones that are available for public use.

The charts in the next section list the total number of barriers in each category and describe the specific barriers identified.

## MADISON BUILDING

### Multi-User Restrooms

	<b>Total</b>
Coat hook is mounted too high	31
Side wall grab bar is mounted in the wrong position in stall	31
Toilet paper dispenser on side wall is mounted outside required reach range	31
Accessible compartment door is not self-closing	30
Toilet is in wrong position in stall in relation to side grab bars	24
Knee and/or toe clearance at sink is less than required	16
The stall door does not have a door pull placed on both sides of door near latch	16
Restroom mirror is mounted too high	15
No ambulatory accessible stall provided where required	15
Existing automatic power-assisted door or low energy power operated/open door requires more than 15 pounds of force to interrupt closing	5
Existing low energy power operated/open door does not remain open for at least 5 seconds	5
Paper towel dispenser or hand dryer at accessible sink is mounted outside reach range	4
Stall door hardware is not operable with one hand, or requires tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate	3
No directional signage is provided at inaccessible restroom to nearest accessible restroom or existing directional signage is noncompliant	2
Side and/or rear grab bar is not provided	2
Restroom door is too narrow	1
Existing automatic power-assisted door or low energy power operated/open door opens to back check (80° open) in less than 3 seconds and/or to fully open in less than 4 seconds	1
Floor surface within required area for door maneuvering clearance is not clear	1
Inswinging stall door infringes on required clear floor space within stall	1
Mounting method of existing grab bar obstructs required clear floor area or grab bars are not installed in a manner that provides a gripping surface at the specified locations	1
Toilet paper dispenser obstructs grab bar	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>236</b>

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### Drinking Fountains

	<b>Total</b>
Drinking fountain protrudes too far out into walkway	39
Insufficient knee and/or toe clearance at drinking fountain	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>

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### Telephones

	<b>Total</b>
Not enough telephones with volume control	36
Forward approach - clearance width is less than 30" between screens or wing walls	8
Clear floor space in front of telephone is less than required	4
Operable parts of telephone are outside reach range	3
Handset cord is too short	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>

## MADISON BUILDING

### Restaurants & Cafeterias

**Total**

Less than required number of self-service food shelves in a food service line are within one of the required reach ranges	10
Self-service, open food, beverage, tableware, dishware, and/or condiment dispensers are not within accessible reach ranges	5
Knee and/or toe clearance at dining or work surface is less than required	1
Less than 5% of seating and standing spaces at dining surfaces are accessible	1

**TOTAL**

**17**

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### Doors

**Total**

Fire-rated door closes too fast	5
Nonfire-rated interior door closes too fast and/or requires more than 5 pounds of force to open	3
Push side of door does not have a smooth, uninterrupted surface or panel on bottom 10" of push side of door that extends the full width of the door at swinging door/gate	3
Restroom door is too narrow	2
Viewing panel in door, gate, or side light adjacent to door or gate is too high	1
Power sliding door in power-on and power-off mode is too narrow	1
Existing door hardware cannot be grasped easily with one hand or requires tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate	1

**TOTAL**

**16**

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### Elevator Cabs

**Total**

Existing car position indicator does not give an automatic verbal announcement of the floor number at which car is about to stop	15
The time delay between notification of elevator car arrival and the start of door closing is less than required or is not sufficient to allow for travel from the farthest hall call button to the doorway	1

**TOTAL**

**16**

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### Signage

**Total**

Signage identifying permanent rooms or spaces has tactile text that is multilined, and braille is not placed together below all lines of tactile text	8
Existing signage identifying a permanent room or space does not have required accessible characteristics	3
No tactile exit sign	2
Signage identifying permanent room or space is not located so that the required minimum clear floor space is provided	2
Existing signage identifying permanent room or space is outside required reach range on wall at latch side of door	1

**TOTAL**

**16**

## MADISON BUILDING

### Showers

	Total
Clear floor space adjacent to accessible 36" x 36" shower compartment is less than required	1
Coat hook is mounted too high	1
Curb at 36" x 36" shower stall more than ½" high is not beveled, rounded, or vertical	1
Grab bars are not provided as required in 36" x 36" shower	1
Opening at 36" x 36" shower stall is less than 36" wide along front side	1
Required shower seat is not provided in 36" x 36" shower	1
Shower controls require more than 5 pounds of force to operate, are not operable with one hand, or require grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate	1
Shower head does not allow fixed and handheld operation	1

**TOTAL** **8**

### Interior Routes

	Total
No directional sign at inaccessible entrance indicating location of nearest accessible entrance	3
No directional sign at inaccessible means of egress indicating location of nearest accessible means of egress	3
Accessible dining or work surface height is lower or higher than required	1
Accessible route is not wide enough	1
Object protrudes too far into walkway	1

**TOTAL** **9**

### ATMs

	Total
ATM is not speech enabled or is noncompliant for speech enabling requirements	2
Bins for envelopes, waste, etc., are not within accessible reach ranges	1

**TOTAL** **3**

### Alarms

	Total
Fire extinguisher is outside reach range	1
Pull station control is outside reach range	1

**TOTAL** **2**

### Stairs

	Total
Insufficient clear floor space in front of stairway sign	2

**TOTAL** **2**

### Self-Service Displays & Racks

	Total
Portions of literature rack or suggestion box are beyond reach ranges	1

**TOTAL** **1**

## JEFFERSON BUILDING



There were 269 total barriers identified in Jefferson. Like Madison, most of these—nearly 50%—were from the multi-user restrooms, which is also consistent with what we found in the 114th Congress. Specific issues included coat hooks that were not mounted at an accessible height, stall doors that did not have door pulls on both sides of the door, and toilet paper dispensers that obstructed the stall grab bars. These types of issues have relatively easy solutions. Still, there were other barriers that are not quite as easy to fix because they are structural in nature or because they will require reconfiguration of multiple stalls. These include barriers where the stall was too small or where there was no ambulatory accessible stall (i.e., a stall that is accessible for persons using a cane or a walker, rather than a wheelchair) where one was required.

While these types of barriers may not be as easy to address, eliminating them must still be prioritized given the nature of the issue. If a stall is not deep enough (or wide enough), someone using a wheelchair may not be able to enter the stall at all, which likely means that they would need to find another accessible restroom altogether if there was only one accessible stall in the restroom. Finding and getting to another accessible restroom may not be the easiest task for a visitor who is unfamiliar with the building, especially a larger, older facility like Jefferson.

After multi-user restrooms, the next highest barrier categories were drinking fountains, which had 36 total barriers, and signage and interior routes, which each had 25 barriers.

The charts that follow list the total number of barriers in each category we identified in Jefferson and describe the specific types of barriers within each category.

## MOST COMMON BARRIER TYPES

<b>Multi-User Restrooms</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Signage</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Interior Routes</b>	<b>25</b>

## JEFFERSON BUILDING

### Multi-User Restrooms

	<b>Total</b>
Coat hook is mounted too high	10
The stall door does not have a door pull placed on both sides of door near latch	9
Knee and/or toe clearance at sink is less than required	8
Nonfire-rated interior door closes too fast and/or requires more than 5 pounds of force to open	8
Toilet paper dispenser obstructs grab bar	8
Accessible compartment door is not self-closing	7
Insufficient clearance width in front of sink for forward approach	5
Grab bar is not mounted at required height	5
Manual flush control is not on open side of toilet in wheelchair accessible compartment	5
Paper towel dispenser or hand dryer at accessible sink is mounted outside reach range	5
No ambulatory accessible stall provided where required	5
Water supply pipes and/or drain pipes are not insulated or covered	5
Wheelchair accessible stall is not deep enough	5
No directional signage is provided at inaccessible restroom to nearest accessible restroom or existing directional signage is noncompliant	4
Seat cover dispenser is mounted outside reach range	4
Side wall grab bar is mounted in the wrong position in stall	4
Top of toilet seat is lower or higher than required	4
International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) signage posted at room that is not considered to be accessible	3
Side grab bar is shorter than required	3
Insufficient clear floor space in front of urinal	2
Existing ambulatory stall is not deep enough	2
Existing door hardware cannot be grasped easily with one hand or requires tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate	2
Baby changing table is not mounted at required height	2
Raised character and braille room identification signage is not provided at restroom	2
Signage identifying restroom is not located so that the required minimum clear floor space is provided	2
Restroom mirror is mounted too high	1
Insufficient clear floor space at accessory, mirror, dispenser, or waste receptacle	1
Insufficient clear floor space at seat cover dispenser	1
Clear width at door to ambulatory accessible compartment is less than required	1
Dispenser or waste receptacle is mounted outside reach range	1
Electrical switch is located outside of reach range	1
Grab bar is not mounted horizontally	1
Insufficient knee and/or toe clearance at baby changing table	1
Manual flush control at urinal is out of reach range	1
Object protrudes too far into walkway	1
Rear wall grab bar extends less than required distance from the centerline of stall on one or both sides	1
Side and/or rear grab bar is not provided	1
Toilet paper dispenser does not allow continuous or uncontrolled delivery or one-hand operation	1
Wall-hung urinal rim height is greater than required	1

**TOTAL**

**133**

## JEFFERSON BUILDING

### Doors

	Total
Restroom door is too narrow	11
Existing door hardware cannot be grasped easily with one hand or requires tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate	11
Fire-rated door closes too fast	4
Maneuvering clearance at doorway is less than required	4
Nonfire-rated interior door closes too fast and/or requires more than 5 pounds of force to open	4
Existing automatic power-assisted door or low energy power operated/open door requires more than 15 pounds of force to interrupt closing	1
Push side of door does not have a smooth, uninterrupted surface or panel on bottom 10" of push side of door that extends the full width of the door at swinging door/gate	1

**TOTAL** **36**

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### Signage

	Total
No tactile exit sign	14
Existing signage identifying a permanent room or space does not have required accessible characteristics	7
Existing signage identifying permanent room or space is outside required reach range on wall at latch side of door	3
Signage identifying permanent room or space is not located so that the required minimum clear floor space is provided	1

**TOTAL** **25**

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### Interior Routes

	Total
Object protrudes too far into walkway	13
A two-way communication system is provided to gain admittance to a building, facility, or restricted area within a building, but it is not accessible	4
Accessible dining or work surface height is lower or higher than required	2
Insufficient headroom at interior accessible route or circulation space	1
Clear floor space at control is less than required	1
Control is outside reach range	1
Knee and/or toe clearance at dining or work surface is less than required	1
No directional sign at inaccessible means of egress indicating location of nearest accessible means of egress	1
Operating parts of vending machine are outside required reach range	1

**TOTAL** **25**

---

### Drinking Fountains

	Total
Drinking fountain protrudes too far out into walkway	7
Insufficient knee and/or toe clearance at drinking fountain	2
No drinking fountains provided that accommodate those who have problems bending/stooping	2
Less than required number of accessible fountains on floor level	1
Only drinking fountain on the floor does not meet the requirement to provide service to people who use wheelchairs as well as to those who have problems bending/stooping	1

**TOTAL** **13**

## JEFFERSON BUILDING

### Elevators

Existing car position indicator does not give an automatic verbal announcement of the floor number at which car is about to stop

**Total**

1

**TOTAL**

**1**

---

### Single-User Restrooms

**Total**

Water supply pipes and/or drain pipes are not insulated or covered

3

Nonfire-rated interior door closes too fast and/or requires more than 5 pounds of force to open

2

Paper towel dispenser or hand dryer at accessible sink is mounted outside reach range

2

Restroom mirror is mounted too high

1

Electrical switch is located outside of reach range

1

Baby changing table is not mounted at required height

1

**TOTAL**

**10**

---

### Elevator Lobbies

**Total**

Audible signal to announce car arrival or response to call is noncompliant or not provided

4

Existing hall call controls do not give a visual signal to register calls and response

1

Floor designations at elevator hoistway are not located at required height

1

**TOTAL**

**6**

---

### Business & Mercantile

**Total**

Sales transaction or service counter is not required height and/or length

5

Clearance width is less than required for turnaround obstruction

1

**TOTAL**

**6**

---

### Stairs

**Total**

Insufficient headroom at interior accessible route or circulation space

4

Protruding object projects too far into the walkway

1

**TOTAL**

**5**

---

### Telephones

**Total**

Not enough telephones with volume control

2

Operable parts of telephone are outside reach range

1

Telephone, shelf, screen, or appurtenance projects too far into walkway

1

**TOTAL**

**4**

---



## JEFFERSON BUILDING

### Alarms

Fire extinguisher is outside reach range  
Visual alarm signal is not mounted with the entire lens within the required height range

**Total**

1

1

**TOTAL**

**2**

---

### Restaurants & Cafeterias

Self-service, open food, beverage, tableware, dishware, and/or condiment dispensers are not within accessible reach ranges

**Total**

2

**TOTAL**

**2**

---

### Self-Service Displays & Racks

Portions of literature rack or suggestion box are beyond reach ranges

**Total**

1

**TOTAL**

**1**

## ADAMS BUILDING



We identified 123 total barriers in Adams. Most of these barriers related to signage, the multi-user restrooms, and the drinking fountains. Each of these three categories accounted for roughly 20-30% of the total amount.

Signage barriers were the most commonly identified in Adams, and within this category, the main issue was the lack of tactile exit signs. A tactile sign is a sign that can be read by touch, such as a braille sign or a sign with raised print, and is used by persons who are blind or otherwise visually impaired. Exit signs that can be read by all persons in a building, including those with disabilities, are an important and necessary feature for building safety.

There were also issues concerning existing signage not being mounted within the required reach range (the height range in which someone in a wheelchair or scooter can reach) and signage that did not have the required accessible features (i.e., compliant braille size or finish and contrast). Having appropriate signage is key to making a building accessible because signage helps to ensure that visitors, many of whom may be completely unfamiliar with the building, can independently find their destination.

The charts that follow list the total number of barriers in each category we identified in Adams and describe the specific types of barriers within each category.

## MOST COMMON BARRIER TYPES

<b>Signage</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Multi-User Restrooms</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	<b>22</b>

## ADAMS BUILDING

### Signage

No tactile exit sign	21
Existing signage identifying permanent room or space is outside required reach range on wall at latch side of door	9
Existing signage identifying a permanent room or space does not have required accessible characteristics	2
Signage identifying permanent room or space is not located so that the required minimum clear floor space is provided	2

### TOTAL

**34**

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### Multi-User Restrooms

Accessible compartment door is not self-closing	5
The stall door does not have a door pull placed on both sides of door near latch	5
Automatic or power-assisted door does not have standby power	4
Toilet paper dispenser on side wall is mounted outside required reach range	4
Paper towel dispenser or hand dryer at accessible sink is mounted outside reach range	2
Toilet is in wrong position in stall in relation to side grab bars	1
Existing automatic power-assisted door or low energy power operated/open door requires more than 15 pounds of force to interrupt closing	1
Existing toilet room does not provide the required turning space, clear floor space at fixtures, maneuvering clearance(s) at door, and/or accessible stall	1
Floor surface within required area for door maneuvering clearance is not clear	1
Insufficient maneuvering clearance on pull side of out-swinging compartment door	1
Maneuvering clearance at doorway is less than required	1
Seat cover dispenser is mounted outside reach range	1
Toilet paper dispenser obstructs grab bar	1

### TOTAL

**28**

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### Drinking Fountains

Drinking fountain protrudes too far out into walkway	17
Only drinking fountain on the floor does not meet the requirement to provide service to people who use wheelchairs as well as to those who have problems bending/stooping	4
Spout outlet height at standard high drinking fountain is lower or higher than required	1

### TOTAL

**22**

## ADAMS BUILDING

### Doors

Fire-rated door closes too fast	7
Existing automatic power-assisted door or low energy power operated/open door requires more than 15 pounds of force to interrupt closing	1
Existing door hardware cannot be grasped easily with one hand or requires tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate	1
Floor surface within required area for door maneuvering clearance is not clear	1
Maneuvering clearance at doorway is less than required	1
Nonfire-rated interior door closes too fast and/or requires more than 5 pounds of force to open	1

### TOTAL

**12**

---

### Restaurants & Cafeterias

Less than required number of self-service food shelves in a food service line are within one of the required reach ranges	6
Self-service, open food, beverage, tableware, dishware, and/or condiment dispensers are not within accessible reach ranges	3

### TOTAL

**9**

---

### Interior Routes

No directional sign at inaccessible entrance indicating location of nearest accessible entrance	2
No directional sign at inaccessible means of egress indicating location of nearest accessible means of egress	1
There is not at least one accessible route connecting each story and mezzanine in multi-story building or facility	1

### TOTAL

**4**

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### Stairs

Insufficient clear floor space in front of stairway sign	3
Protruding object projects too far into the walkway	1

### TOTAL

**4**

---

### Self-Service Displays & Racks

Clear floor space is less than required	1
Coat hook(s) is mounted outside of reach range	1
Portions of literature rack or suggestion box are beyond reach ranges	1

### TOTAL

**3**

## ADAMS BUILDING

### Alarms

Fire extinguisher is outside reach range	1
Visual alarm signal is not mounted with the entire lens within the required height range	1
Visual alarm signal mounted on ceiling	1

**TOTAL** **3**

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### Ramps

Handrails are not provided at ramp with a rise of greater than 6"	1
Ramp rises greater than 30" in one run	1
Ramp slope is greater than required	1

**TOTAL** **3**

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### Single-User Restrooms

Restroom door is too narrow	1
-----------------------------	---

**TOTAL** **1**

# INSPECTION RESULTS BY FACILITY: HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

During the 115th Congress, we continued the inspections of the House Office Buildings, which began during the 114th Congress. Our House facility inspections included surveys of the publicly accessible spaces within each building, such as restrooms, entrances and exits, cafeterias and other eateries, and the Member offices. We also looked at the Ford building for the first time.

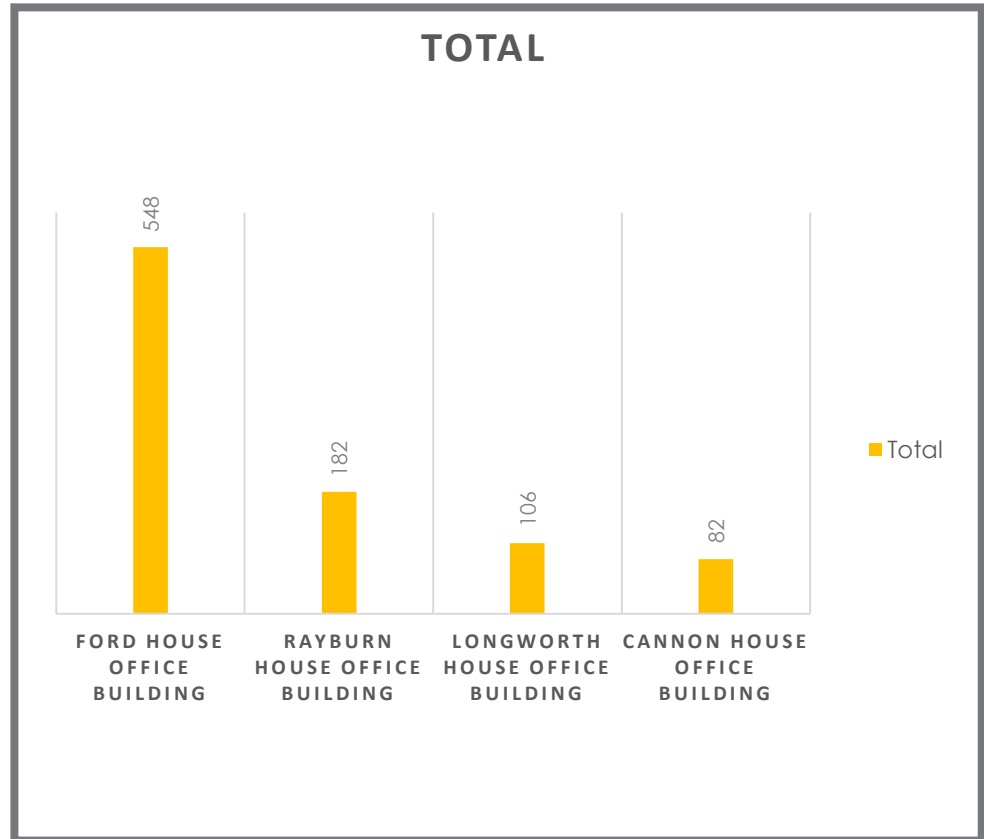
For the Member offices, many of the barriers stem from the furniture, the furniture layout, and self-service items and are typically not structural in nature. This means that many Member office barriers can be resolved easily, quickly, and sometimes, at no cost.

For example, some Member offices have chairs or tables in the waiting area that obstruct or narrow the path of travel for a person using a wheelchair. These types of issues can be fixed by moving the furniture as needed. Other offices have a sign-in sheet or candy dish that is positioned too high for someone in a wheelchair to access. These issues can be fixed by moving the items to an appropriate height. Staff in the Member offices can implement these solutions.

The OGC has easy-to-understand ADA resources, including a short video tutorial and tip sheet, to help Member offices configure their office spaces in accordance with the ADA Standards and address common easy-to-fix issues. Offices may access these resources on our website at [ocwr.gov](https://ocwr.gov).

In addition to the less complicated barriers that are typical for Member offices, there are some structural issues in the Member offices in Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn. These include doors that are too narrow for someone in a wheelchair to pass through or doors that have handles or knobs that are hard to use for people with a disability affecting their hands. These barriers generally affect entire facilities and potentially implicate the historic fabric of the buildings, which will have to be considered when developing a solution acceptable to both the AOC and the OGC.

In total, there were 918 barriers identified in the House Office Buildings. We identified more than half of these in Ford. Rayburn had the next highest amount with 182 barriers, followed by Longworth with 106 barriers and Cannon with 82 barriers. Three hundred and twenty-two of the House barriers were identified in Member offices.



## FORD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING



## MOST COMMON BARRIER TYPES

<b>Multi-User Restrooms</b>	<b>399</b>
<b>Doors</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Signage</b>	<b>26</b>

The Ford House Office Building had 548 barriers, which was the highest total barrier count of all the facilities inspected during the 115th Congress. More than 70% of this total was attributable to the multi-user restrooms. This category has consistently been an issue of concern across all of the inspected facilities in both the 115th and the 114th Congress.

There were a wide variety of specific types of restroom barriers, including stall doors that were not self-closing and grab bars and toilet paper dispensers that were not mounted in the appropriate position in the stall. It is important to remember that compliance with the standards applicable to restrooms helps to ensure that individuals with disabilities can independently use these facilities.

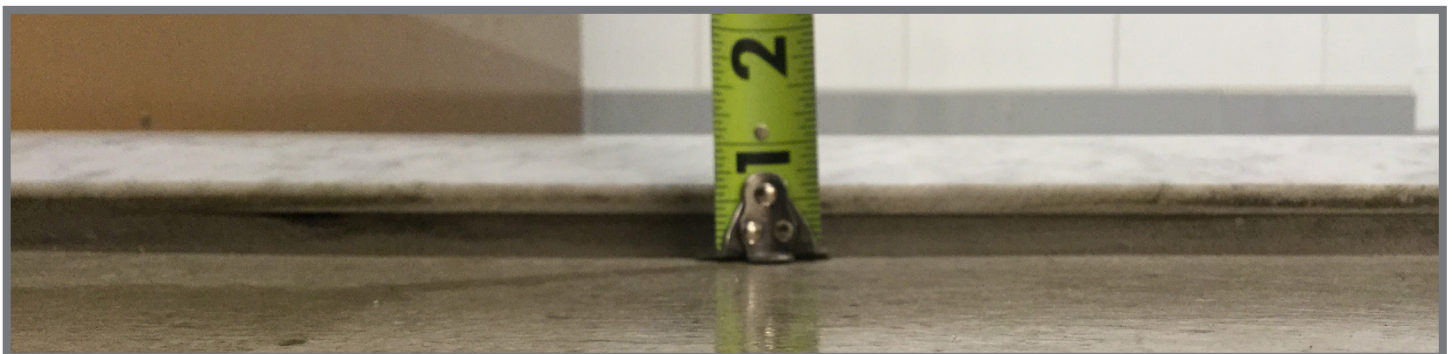
Whereas in other parts of a building, there may be someone available to assist an individual with a disability if something is out of reach or blocks a path, this likely will not be the case for someone using the restroom. Moreover, if someone needs to relieve themselves, it may not be feasible for them to simply find another restroom in hopes that it will be compliant.

After the multi-user restrooms, the next most commonly identified types of barriers were related to doors and signage. The charts that follow list the total number of barriers in each category we identified in Ford and describe the specific types of barriers within each category.

## FORD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

### Multi-User Restrooms

	<b>Total</b>
Side wall grab bar is mounted in the wrong position in stall	38
The stall door does not have a door pull placed on both sides of door near latch	38
Toilet paper dispenser is mounted in the wrong position	37
Accessible compartment door is not self-closing	36
Existing sign with pictogram is noncompliant	21
Existing raised character and braille room identification sign is not mounted at required height	20
Clear width at door to ambulatory accessible compartment is less than required	19
Compartment door is in wrong position	19
Existing ambulatory stall is not deep enough	19
Wheelchair accessible compartment is not wide enough	19
Top of toilet seat is lower or higher than required	15
Existing threshold is too high and/or is not beveled at the required minimum ratio	14
Soap dispenser control or operating mechanism requires greater than 5 pounds of force and/or tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate, and/or cannot be operated with one hand	14
Coat hook is mounted too high	13
Paper towel dispenser or hand dryer at accessible sink is mounted outside reach range	13
Control or operating mechanism requires greater than 5 pounds of force to operate or requires tight gripping, grasping, or twisting of wrist, and/or more than one hand to operate	9
Grab bar is mounted in the wrong position	9
Stall clear floor space is obstructed	9
Baby changing table is not mounted at required height	8
Wall-hung urinal is not deep enough	8
Maneuvering clearance at doorway is less than required	5
Nonfire-rated interior door closes too fast and/or requires more than 5 pounds of force to open	4
Restroom mirror is mounted too high	2
No directional signage is provided at inaccessible restroom to nearest accessible restroom or existing directional signage is noncompliant	2
Seat cover dispenser is mounted outside reach range	2
Automatic or power-assisted door does not have standby power	1
Stall door swings into minimum required compartment area	1
Knee and/or toe clearance at sink is less than required	1
Soap dispenser at accessible sink is mounted outside reach range	1
Visual alarm signal mounted on ceiling	1
Toilet flush mechanism obstructs rear grab bar	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>399</b>





## FORD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

<b>Doors</b>	<b>Total</b>
Viewing panel in door, gate, or side light adjacent to door or gate is too high	12
Restroom door is too narrow	11
Existing door hardware cannot be grasped easily with one hand or requires tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate	11
Fire-rated door closes too fast	11
Push side of door does not have a smooth, uninterrupted surface or panel on bottom 10" of push side of door that extends the full width of the door at swinging door/gate	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>

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<b>Signage</b>	<b>Total</b>
No tactile exit sign	23
Signage identifying permanent rooms or spaces does not have Grade 2 braille with domed or rounded dots, in addition to raised characters	2
Signage identifying permanent rooms or spaces does not use required font format	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>

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<b>Stairs</b>	<b>Total</b>
There is no tactile identification sign where stair level is identified	11
Insufficient headroom at interior accessible route or circulation space	6
Protruding object projects too far into the walkway	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>

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<b>Restaurants &amp; Cafeterias</b>	<b>Total</b>
Self-service, open food, beverage, tableware, dishware, and/or condiment dispensers are not within accessible reach ranges	14
Less than required number of self-service food shelves in a food service line are within one of the required reach ranges	4
Knee and/or toe clearance at dining or work surface is less than required	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>

## FORD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

### Barriers in Other Public Spaces

<b>Interior Routes</b>	<b>Total</b>
Object protrudes too far into walkway	12
No directional sign at inaccessible means of egress indicating location of nearest accessible means of egress	5
Control is outside reach range	1
Operating parts of vending machine are outside required reach range	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>

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<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	<b>Total</b>
Insufficient knee and/or toe clearance at drinking fountain	6
No drinking fountains provided that accommodate those who have problems bending/stooping	5
Clear floor space at drinking fountain is less than required for forward approach and/or is not centered on unit	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

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<b>Alarms</b>	<b>Total</b>
Pull station control outside reach range	1
Visual alarm signal mounted on ceiling	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>

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<b>Self-Service Displays &amp; Racks</b>	<b>Total</b>
Portions of literature rack or suggestion box are beyond reach ranges	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

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<b>Telephones</b>	<b>Total</b>
Operable parts of telephone are outside reach range	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

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<b>Business &amp; Mercantile</b>	<b>Total</b>
Point-of-sale machine/self-service kiosk is not within compliant reach ranges	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

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<b>Elevator Cabs</b>	<b>Total</b>
Existing car position indicator does not give an automatic verbal announcement of the floor number at which car is about to stop	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

## RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING



### MOST COMMON BARRIER TYPES

<b>Self-Service Displays &amp; Racks</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Interior Routes</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Doors</b>	<b>Whole Facility</b>

During our 115th Congress inspections of Rayburn, we surveyed the Member offices, cafeterias, and other dining areas and identified 182 barriers. We looked at the other publicly accessible spaces and features in Rayburn, such as the building entrances, exits, multi-user restrooms, signage, and elevators, during the 114th Congress and did not reinspect them during the 115th. The

fact that we did not look at as many spaces in Rayburn during the 115th Congress may explain why Rayburn had a lower barrier total than Ford.

The majority of the barriers in Rayburn were identified in Member offices. There were 171 Member office barriers. These fit into 3 categories: self-service displays and racks, interior routes, and doors.

The self-service displays and rack barriers were the most commonly identified, accounting for 119, or nearly 70% of all of the Member office barriers. Self-service displays and rack barriers include barriers related to magazine racks and candy dishes being placed too high or too low for someone sitting in a wheelchair or on a scooter to reach them. The self-service displays and rack barriers that we see in inspections are generally identified in Member offices.

These barriers can be removed easily by moving the literature on a magazine rack lower or higher as needed. For example, if this type of barrier was assigned where magazines were placed on the highest rung of a rack, the barrier can be removed by moving the magazines down a few rungs. Similarly, candy dishes could be moved from a high counter down to a side table at a lower height.

There were 46 interior route barriers in Member offices. This category includes barriers related to the path of travel being too narrow for a wheelchair user or insufficient knee and toe clearance at a table.

With the 6 door barriers in Rayburn, 4 of them are actually whole facility barriers, which means that the specific issue affects all or a substantial majority of the Member office doors in Rayburn.

The charts that follow list the total number of barriers in each category we identified in Rayburn and describe the specific types of barriers within each category.

**RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING**  
**Member Office Barriers**

**Interior Routes**

**Total**

Insufficient knee and/or toe clearance at dining or work surface	32
Accessible route is not wide enough	8
Carpet is not securely attached, exposed edges of carpet are not fastened to the floor, and/or carpet does not have trim along the entire length of the exposed edge	4
Self-service item is outside accessible reach range	1
The combination of the mat's underside and the floor's surface could cause slippage	1

**Total**

**46**

**Self-Service Displays & Racks**

**Total**

Portions of literature rack or suggestion box are beyond reach ranges	110
Portions of magazine rack are beyond reach ranges	9

**TOTAL**

**119**

**Doors**

**Total**

Insufficient clear width at door	3
Existing door hardware cannot be grasped easily with one hand or requires tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate	Whole facility
Floor surface within required area for door maneuvering clearance is not clear	Whole facility
Nonfire-rated interior door closer causes door to close too fast and/or exceeds the maximum force of 5 pounds to open	Whole facility

**TOTAL**

**6**

**RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING**  
**Barriers in Other Public Spaces**

**Interior Routes**

**Total**

Queue line stanchions protrude too far into walkway	1
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**TOTAL**

**1**

**Restaurants & Cafeterias**

**Total**

Self-service, open food, beverage, tableware, dishware, and/or condiment dispensers are not within accessible reach ranges	5
Less than required number of self-service food shelves in a food service line are within one of the required reach ranges	3
Knee and/or toe clearance at dining or work surface is less than required	1
Operating parts of vending machine are outside required reach range	1

**TOTAL**

**10**

## LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING



### MOST COMMON BARRIER TYPES

<b>Self-Service Displays &amp; Racks</b>	<b>71</b>	
<b>Restaurants &amp; Cafeterias</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>Doors</b>		<b>Whole Facility</b>

During our 115th Congress inspections of Longworth, we identified 106 barriers. Like our Rayburn inspections, our Longworth inspections were focused solely on the Member offices and eating areas. We did not reinspect the other publicly accessible spaces in Longworth, such as the restrooms and building entrances/exits, which we had surveyed during the 115th Congress.

Seventy-five of the barriers in Longworth were in Member offices and the remaining thirty-one were in the eating areas. The Member office barriers identified fall into the following categories: self-service displays & racks, interior routes, and doors. Self-service displays & racks were the most commonly identified, with 68 barriers falling in the category. There were 5 interior route barriers and 2 door barriers. The 2 door barriers are actually whole facility barriers, which means the issue is present in all or a substantial amount of the Member office doors.

In the eating areas, barriers were identified in the following categories: business & mercantile, drinking fountains, interior routes, ramps, restaurants & cafeterias, and self-service displays & racks. Many of the eating area barriers were assigned because self-service counters for food, condiments, and plasticware were positioned at an inaccessible height. Insufficient knee and toe clearance at tables was another common barrier.

The charts that follow list the total number of barriers in each category we identified in the Member offices and other public spaces in Longworth and describe the specific types of barriers within each category.

## LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

### Member Office Barriers

#### Self-Service Displays & Racks

Portions of literature rack or suggestion box are beyond reach ranges	63
Clear floor space is less than required	3
Portions of form rack are beyond reach ranges	1
Storage element is not within compliant reach ranges	1

**TOTAL** **68**

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#### Interior Routes

Insufficient knee and/or toe clearance at work surface	4
Carpet is not securely attached, exposed edges of carpet are not fastened to the floor, and/or carpet does not have trim along the entire length of the exposed edge	1

**TOTAL** **5**

---

#### Doors

Existing door hardware cannot be grasped easily with one hand or requires tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate	Whole facility
Nonfire-rated interior door closes too fast and/or requires more than 5 pounds of force to open	Whole facility

**TOTAL** **2**

---

## LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

### Barriers in Other Public Spaces

#### Restaurants & Cafeterias

Self-service, open food, beverage, tableware, dishware, and/or condiment dispensers are not within accessible reach ranges	12
Less than required number of self-service food shelves in a food service line are within one of the required reach ranges	2
Knee and/or toe clearance at dining or work surface is less than required	1
Less than 5% of seating and standing spaces at dining surfaces are accessible	1

**TOTAL** **16**

## LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

### Barriers in Other Public Spaces

#### Interior Routes

Insufficient headroom at interior accessible route or circulation space	1
Audio-visual equipment projects too far into walkway	1
Control is outside reach range	1
Existing vertical transition is higher than permitted, or is within the right height range but not beveled, or slope at existing beveling is too steep	1
One full unobstructed side of clear floor space at control/receptacle does not adjoin an accessible route or another 30" x 48" clear floor space	1
Queue line stanchions protrude too far into walkway	1

**TOTAL** **6**

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#### Ramps

Handrail does not extend high enough above landing beyond bottom of ramp run and top of ramp run	1
Ramp slope is greater than required	1
Ramp surface contains cracks, expansion joints, gaps, and/or vertical transition	1
Top ramp landing is shorter than required and/or less than the width of the run leading to the landing	1

**TOTAL** **4**

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#### Self-Service Displays & Racks

Portions of literature rack or suggestion box are beyond reach ranges	3
---	---

**TOTAL** **3**

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#### Drinking Fountains

Drinking fountain protrudes too far out into walkway	1
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**TOTAL** **1**

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#### Business & Mercantile

Point-of-sale machine/self-service kiosk is not within compliant reach ranges	1
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**TOTAL** **1**

## CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING



## MOST COMMON BARRIER TYPES

**Self-Service Displays & Racks**

**69**

**Interior Routes**

**5**

**Doors**

**Whole  
Facility**

During the 115th Congress inspections of Cannon, we looked at the Member offices and eating areas, as we did with Rayburn and Longworth, and identified 82 barriers. Seventy-six barriers were in the Member offices, and 6 were in the eating areas.

The Member office barriers were the same types of barriers identified in Longworth and Rayburn: self-service displays & racks, interior routes, and doors. Consistent with what we identified in those buildings, most of the barriers—nearly 80%—were in the self-service displays & racks category. Cannon also had building-wide barriers concerning the doors to Member offices: the doors do not have enough maneuvering clearance for individuals using wheelchairs, and the door hardware (i.e., knobs or handles) is difficult to use for individuals who have disabilities affecting their hands.

In the eating areas, the barriers fell within the following categories: restaurants & cafeterias, interior routes, and business & mercantile.

The charts that follow list the total number of barriers in each category we identified in the Member offices and other public spaces in Cannon and describe the specific types of barriers within each category.



## CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

### Member Office Barriers

#### Self-Service Displays & Racks

Portions of literature rack or suggestion box are beyond reach ranges  
Clear floor space is less than required

**Total**

61  
8

#### **TOTAL**

**69**

---

#### Interior Routes

Accessible route is not wide enough  
Carpet is not securely attached, exposed edges of carpet are not fastened to the floor, and/or carpet does not have trim along the entire length of the exposed edge  
Curling or frayed conditions on any portion of floor mat that is in the circulation path or accessible route (as opposed to edges abutting walls) creates an obstruction or tripping hazard  
Knee and/or toe clearance at dining or work surface is less than required

**Total**

2  
1  
1  
1

#### **TOTAL**

**5**

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#### Doors

Existing door hardware cannot be grasped easily with one hand or requires tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate  
Maneuvering clearance at doorway is less than required

**Total**

Whole facility  
Whole facility

#### **TOTAL**

**2**

---

## CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

### Barriers in Other Public Spaces

#### Restaurants & Cafeterias

Self-service, open food, beverage, tableware, dishware, and/or condiment dispensers are not within accessible reach ranges

**Total**

3

#### **TOTAL**

**3**

---

#### Interior Routes

Clear floor space at control is less than required  
Control is outside reach range

**Total**

1  
1

#### **TOTAL**

**2**

---

#### Business & Mercantile

Point-of-sale machine/self-service kiosk is not within compliant reach ranges

**Total**

1

#### **TOTAL**

**1**

---

# INSPECTION RESULTS BY FACILITY: SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS



During the 115th Congress, we inspected the cafeterias and restaurants in the Dirksen and Russell Senate Office Buildings. We looked at the other public spaces of these buildings during the 114th Congress and did not reinspect these areas during the 115th Congress. Dirksen had 29 barriers, and Russell had 13.

## SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

**Dirksen Senate Office Building**

**Russell Senate Office Building**

**Grand Total**

## TOTAL

**29**

**13**

**42**

# DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING



## MOST COMMON BARRIERS TYPES

Restaurants & Cafeterias	24
Ramps	4
Interior Routes	1

All of the barriers in Dirksen were identified in the eating areas and fell within the following categories: restaurants & cafeterias, interior routes, and ramps. Within these categories, we saw barriers ranging from out-of-reach self-service food, condiments, and plasticware counters to too-steep ramps in the cafeterias or walkways that were obstructed by a protruding object.

The charts below list each of the specific barriers in each category.

### Restaurants & Cafeterias

### Total

Less than 5% of seating and standing spaces at dining surfaces are accessible	5
Less than required number of self-service food shelves in a food service line are within one of the required reach ranges	3
Self-service, open food, beverage, tableware, dishware, and/or condiment dispensers are not within accessible reach ranges	16

### TOTAL

### 24

### Ramps

### Total

Ramp slope is greater than required	2
Bottom landing length is less than required or width is less than the run leading to the landing	1
Handrail is not provided on both sides of ramp	1

### TOTAL

### 4

### Interior Routes

### Total

Object protrudes too far into walkway	1
---------------------------------------	---

### TOTAL

### 1

# RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING



In Russell, the inspections focused on the restaurants and cafeterias and the Member offices. We identified 13 barriers in total: 11 were in the eating areas, and 2 were in Member offices.

The two Member office barriers concerned insufficient knee and toe clearance at meeting tables used to meet with visitors. Having the right amount of knee and toe clearance at a meeting table ensures that persons using wheelchairs can pull up to and sit at the table.

In the eating areas, many of the barriers were the same as those in the Dirksen eating areas, such as self-service shelves and dispensers for food, condiments, and tableware, etc. that were too high for someone in a wheelchair to reach. There were also barriers assigned because of an insufficient number of accessible dining seating and standing spaces, or insufficient knee and toe clearance at a dining table.

The charts in the next section list each of the specific Russell barriers.

## RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING Member Office Barriers

### Interior Routes

Knee and/or toe clearance at dining or work surface is less than required

**Total**

2

**TOTAL**

**2**

## RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING Barriers in Other Public Spaces

### Restaurants & Cafeterias

Self-service, open food, beverage, tableware, dishware, and/or condiment dispensers are not within accessible reach ranges

5

Less than required number of self-service food shelves in a food service line are within one of the required reach ranges

3

Clearance width is less than required for turnaround obstruction

1

Less than 5% of seating and standing spaces at dining surfaces are accessible

1

Service counter where payment is processed and/or where food items are passed does not provide the required height and/or length

1

**TOTAL**

**11**

# INSPECTION RESULTS BY FACILITY: USCP HEADQUARTERS



We inspected the USCP headquarters for the first time during the 115th Congress. While not an obvious place of public access, the headquarters is where the public must go to apply for permits for demonstrations and protests, which happen frequently on the Hill. To that end, during the 115th Congress, we looked at the first floor of the headquarters where the USCP receives these applications. For these types of spaces, things like counter height and reach ranges are important, especially since there are a number of disability advocacy groups that participate in demonstrations on the Hill each year.

During our inspection, we identified 5 barriers in three categories: interior routes, telephones, and business & mercantile. The charts below show the barriers we identified in each of these categories.

<b>Interior Routes</b>	<b>Total</b>
Control is outside reach range	1
Existing vertical transition is higher than permitted, or is within the right height range but not beveled, or slope at existing beveling is too steep	1
Object protrudes too far into walkway	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>Telephones</b>	<b>Total</b>
Not enough telephones with volume control	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>Business &amp; Mercantile</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sales transaction or service counter is not required height and/or length	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

# INSPECTION RESULTS BY FACILITY: THOMAS P. O'NEILL, JR. FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING



While the O'Neill Federal Office Building was not a priority focus of our inspections during the 115th Congress, we did identify one exterior route barrier in one of the sidewalks adjacent to this building. A metal grate in this sidewalk did not comply with the ADA Standards.

## Exterior Routes

Noncompliant metal grate in sidewalk

## TOTAL

## Total

1

**1**

# INSPECTION RESULTS BY FACILITY: CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER



During the 115th Congress, we inspected the United States Capitol Visitor Center (CVC). As the newest legislative branch facility on the Hill, it is unique among the other Hill facilities in that we were able to participate in accessibility inspection efforts for this building prior to building occupancy. At that time, we identified barriers to access concerning noncompliant slopes on the main entrance paths to the facility, accessible egress routes, handrails, interior doors opening force, exit and staging area signage, wheelchair ramps, and reach ranges for food stations in the facility cafeterias. We collaborated with the AOC, and the AOC worked to remove many of these barriers shortly after they were identified.

During our return to the CVC in the 115th Congress, we identified 183 barriers. They fell within the following categories: multi-user restrooms, single-user restrooms, doors, telephones, stairs, signage, restaurants & cafeterias, drinking

fountains, business & mercantile, interior routes, self-service displays & racks, ATMs, and alarms. The multi-user restrooms category accounted for the majority of all of the CVC barriers—104 barriers -- with 56% of the barriers in this category. After the multi-user restrooms, the next most commonly identified barrier type was the single-user restrooms with 27 barriers, followed by doors with 13 barriers.

In the multi-user restrooms, there were several barriers concerning the lack of door pulls near the latch on both sides of the stall door. There were also several barriers assigned where accessible stall doors were not self-closing. In the single-user restrooms, a common barrier was that the paper towel dispenser or hand dryer at the accessible sink were not mounted within an accessible reach range. The door barriers all concerned doors that closed too fast or required too much force to open.

The charts in the next section list the specific barriers in each category we identified in the CVC.

## MOST COMMON BARRIER TYPES

<b>Multi-User Restrooms</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Single-User Restrooms</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Doors</b>	<b>13</b>

## CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

### Multi-User Restrooms

	<b>Total</b>
The stall door does not have a door pull placed on both sides of door near latch	41
Accessible stall door is not self-closing	21
Insufficient clear floor space at seat cover dispenser	8
Insufficient clear floor space at accessory, mirror, dispenser, or waste receptacle	6
Nonfire-rated interior door closes too fast and/or requires more than 5 pounds of force to open	5
Rear wall grab bar extends less than required distance from the centerline of stall on one or both sides	3
Toilet flush mechanism obstructs rear grab bar	3
Toilet is in wrong position in stall in relation to side grab bars	2
Grab bar is not mounted at required height	2
No ambulatory accessible stall provided where required	2
Soap dispenser control or operating mechanism requires greater than 5 pounds of force and/or tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate, and/or cannot be operated with one hand	2
Accessory, dispenser, or waste receptacle obstructs grab bar	1
Ambulatory accessible stall door does not have parallel side grab bars on both sides of stall	1
Coat hook is mounted too high	1
Dispenser or waste receptacle is mounted outside reach range	1
Font style/format and/or braille on room identification signage is noncompliant	1
Side wall grab bar is mounted in the wrong position in stall	1
Toilet paper dispenser does not allow continuous or uncontrolled delivery or one-hand operation	1
Toilet paper dispenser is mounted in the wrong position	1
Visual alarm signal mounted on ceiling	1

### **TOTAL**

**104**

### Single-User Restrooms

	<b>Total</b>
Paper towel dispenser or hand dryer at accessible sink is mounted outside reach range	7
Nonfire-rated interior door closes too fast and/or requires more than 5 pounds of force to open	3
Restroom mirror is mounted too high	2
Coat hook(s) is mounted outside of reach range	2
Existing threshold is too high and/or is not beveled at the required minimum ratio	2
Grab bar is not mounted at required height	2
Side wall grab bar is mounted in the wrong position in stall	2
Toilet paper dispenser is mounted in the wrong position	2
Insufficient clear floor space in stall	2
Accessory, dispenser, or waste receptacle obstructs grab bar	1
Toilet is in wrong position in stall in relation to side grab bars	1
Signage identifying restroom is not located so that the required minimum clear floor space is provided	1

### **TOTAL**

**27**



## CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

<b>Doors</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fire-rated door closes too fast	10
Nonfire-rated interior door closes too fast and/or requires more than 5 pounds of force to open	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>

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<b>Telephones</b>	<b>Total</b>
Not enough telephones with volume control	2
Operable parts of telephone are outside reach range	2
No directional sign to text (TTY) telephone	1
Existing volume control is noncompliant	1
No identification sign at text (TTY) telephone	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>

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<b>Stairs</b>	<b>Total</b>
Protruding object projects too far into the walkway	5
Insufficient headroom at interior accessible route or circulation space	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>

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<b>Signage</b>	<b>Total</b>
No tactile exit sign	5
Signage identifying permanent rooms or spaces does not use required font format	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

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<b>Restaurants &amp; Cafeterias</b>	<b>Total</b>
Self-service, open food, beverage, tableware, dishware, and/or condiment dispensers are not within accessible reach ranges	4
Less than required number of self-service food shelves in a food service line are within one of the required reach ranges	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>

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<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	<b>Total</b>
Insufficient knee and/or toe clearance at drinking fountain	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>

## CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

### Business & Mercantile

Sales transaction or service counter is not required height and/or length

**Total**

3

**TOTAL**

**3**

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### Interior Routes

**Total**

Accessible route is not wide enough

2

Queue line stanchions protrude too far into walkway

1

**TOTAL**

**3**

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### Self-Service Displays & Racks

**Total**

Coat hook(s) is mounted outside of reach range

1

Portions of literature rack or suggestion box are beyond reach ranges

1

**TOTAL**

**2**

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### ATMs

**Total**

Function keys at ATM are noncompliant

1

**TOTAL**

**1**

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### Alarms

**Total**

Fire extinguisher is outside of reach range

1

**TOTAL**

**1**

# PROGRESS UPDATES FROM THE AOC

At the beginning of each year, the AOC updates the OGC on its progress with removing identified barriers and improving accessibility in Capitol complex facilities and grounds. The AOC utilizes a third-party consultant to verify that accessibility barriers have been remediated. Based on the status of this verification process as of the AOC's January 2021 update, the AOC reports that barriers identified in the 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, and 115th Congresses have been verified as closed as follows:

- ◆ 111th Congress: 91% closed
- ◆ 112th Congress: 94% closed
- ◆ 113th Congress: 30% closed
- ◆ 114th Congress: 56% closed
- ◆ 115th Congress: 31% closed

This update from the AOC is included with this report as Appendix I.

The AOC has also highlighted some of its key accessibility improvements made during the 115th Congress, including:

- ◆ Creating a second accessible entrance to the Dirksen Senate Office Building along C Street, NE, by designing a sloped walkway;
- ◆ Installing a new vertical lift to replace the existing wheelchair lift at the Rayburn House Office Building Independence Ave. entrance;
- ◆ Collaborating with the Library of Congress staff and incorporating ADA/accessibility education into joint staff meetings to improve accessibility during the design and construction of exhibits;
- ◆ Providing training to all AOC staff, including architects, engineers, and construction division staff (day and night shift), on accessibility regulations and common construction issues.

# BARRIER REMOVAL COSTS

While the OGC has not received cost estimates from the AOC, the software used for conducting the inspections and developing solutions generates rough estimates of the costs associated with the solutions, adjusting for construction costs in the D.C. area and the higher costs associated with government construction work.

Based on these software estimates, the total cost for correcting all the barriers found during the 115th Congress totals approximately \$12.5 million. The actual construction costs for removing these barriers have not been confirmed or validated by the AOC.

# TRANSITION PLANS

Although Congress has not approved the ADA regulations proposed by the OCWR Board, the proposed regulations follow those promulgated by the Department of Justice by requiring consultation with members of the disability community and the development of transition plans that will determine how and when the barriers will be removed and facilities will otherwise be made readily accessible for people with disabilities. See 28 C.F.R. § 35.150(d).

Our approach to ADA inspections encourages consultation with the disability community and the development of thorough and effective transition plans. The information we provide to employing offices regarding barrier severity and estimated solution costs aids the transition planning process, as employing offices can utilize this information to prioritize abatement projects.

# **INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES OF DISCRIMINATION AND REQUESTS FOR INSPECTION**

During the 115th Congress, the OGC received five ADA requests for inspection and charges of discrimination. The cases concerned bathroom accessibility in the Library of Congress Jefferson building, access to constituent services provided by Members of Congress, a wheelchair stair lift in the Rayburn House Office Building, and accommodations for individuals with hearing loss at the National Book Festival. The responsible employing offices in matters where we identified barriers to access fully cooperated with our office, removed barriers, and, where applicable, implemented solutions to prevent future violations. The General Counsel did not file complaints in these matters.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The OGC ADA inspection team during the 115th Congress was comprised of Shonda Perkins, OSH Inspection Coordinator; Crystal Barber, Occupational Safety and Health Specialist; Christopher Robinson, Senior Occupational Safety and Health Specialist; Mark Nestor, Occupational Safety and Health Specialist; James Peterson, Occupational Safety and Health Specialist; and Kaylan Dunlap, Accessibility Specialist with Evan Terry Associates (ETA). Additional inspection assistance was provided by Thomas Seymour, Fire Protection Engineer.

The OGC appreciates the cooperation of all legislative branch offices during the inspection process. We particularly appreciate the assistance and time given by the employees of the AOC, the Library of Congress, the Office of House Employment Counsel, and the Office of Senate Chief Counsel for Employment. Simone Jenkins, OGC Senior Attorney, is the primary author of this report.

The OGC also acknowledges the invaluable assistance provided by ETA. The OGC would not have been able to implement the barrier removal survey approach to ADA inspections without ETA's assistance and software.

**JOHN D. UELMEN**  
**General Counsel**



## **APPENDIX I: AOC ANNUAL UPDATE**





**Architect of the Capitol**  
U.S. Capitol, Room SB-16  
Washington, DC 20515  
202.228.1793  
[www.aoc.gov](http://www.aoc.gov)

January 21, 2021

Mr. John D. Uelmen  
General Counsel  
Office of Congressional Workplace Rights  
110 Second Street, SE  
Room LA-200, John Adams Building  
Washington, DC 20540-1999

Dear Mr. Uelmen:

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is pleased to provide this annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) progress report for 2020 on removing the accessibility barriers identified in the biennial reports for the 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th and 115th Congress. This report includes data for the calendar year ending December 31, 2020.

Enclosure 1 provides a summary and detailed description of our improvements. I am pleased to report the following progress:

- 91 percent (207 of 228) of the 111th Congress findings are closed.
- 94 percent (376 of 398) of the 112th Congress findings are closed.
- 30 percent (51 of 168) of the 113th Congress findings are closed.
- 56 percent (1,364 of 2,429) of the 114th Congress findings are closed.
- 31 percent (623 of 1,987) of the 115th Congress findings are closed.

The open findings for each biennial congressional report are identified by the following categories:

- 111th Congress
  - Planned as part of the Cannon Renewal Project, Phase 4 exterior sidewalk repairs: 7 percent (16 of 228 findings)
  - Planned, engineered solutions are being developed: < 1 percent (1 of 228 findings)
  - Located off the identified accessible path, engineered solutions to be developed: 2 percent (4 of 228 findings)
- 112th Congress
  - Planned, but not yet completed: < 1 percent (3 of 398 findings)
  - Planned, engineered solutions are being developed: 5 percent (19 of 398 findings)
- 113th Congress
  - Planned, engineered solutions have been developed: 70 percent (117 of 168 findings)
- 114th Congress
  - Planned as part of the Cannon Renewal Project: 6 percent (135 of 2,429 findings)
  - Planned, engineered solutions are being developed: 44 percent (1,065 of 2,429 findings)

- 115th Congress
  - Planned, engineered solutions are being developed: 69 percent (1,364 of 1,987 findings)

Our process includes verification of closed findings by a third-party consultant. The current status of the verification process is:

- 111th Congress
  - Verified / confirmed closed: 89 percent (204 of 228 findings)
- 112th Congress
  - Verified / confirmed closed: 94 percent (375 of 398 findings)
- 113th Congress
  - Verified / confirmed closed: 20 percent (33 of 168 findings)
- 114th Congress
  - Verified / confirmed closed: 29 percent (706 of 2,429 findings)
- 115th Congress
  - Verified / confirmed closed: 17 percent (330 of 1,987 findings)

Enclosure 2 is a detailed spreadsheet listing each finding and our progress in remediating 111th, 112th, 113th 114th and 115th Congress findings. This enclosure also contains the verification data from our third-party consultant for 2020. Please note, we will continue to obtain abatement verification reports and photos throughout 2021.

Enclosure 3 contains a complete list of ADA accomplishments completed by the AOC. Some highlights include:

### **Physical Access**

- Continued improvement to the physical accessibility of the Capitol campus such as installation and/or renovation of ramps, sidewalks and curb cuts.
- Added additional compliant soap dispensers to restrooms, beyond ADA requirements.
- Lowered fire extinguisher cabinet door pulls to within reach range throughout Senate office buildings, beyond identified accessibility barriers.
- Installed braille signage in stairs, lobbies and corridors of all Library of Congress buildings.

### **Program Access**

- The U.S. Botanic Garden designed and instituted a bimonthly program designed for individuals with memory-loss and their companions.
- The U.S. Botanic Garden designed and instituted a bimonthly program designed for individuals with low vision or who are blind.

### **Program Management**

- Held virtual quarterly Universal Accessibility Team meetings with attendance from all jurisdictions, major divisions and the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services.
- Continued to improve internal processes to ensure accessibility standards are met on design and construction projects.
- Continue to work with an independent quality assurance/quality control inspector who confirms completed work is ADA compliant.

### **Collaboration With the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, Office of General Counsel**

- Provided feedback to Office of Congressional Workplace Rights staff on the final 115th Congress Accessibility Report (i.e., closing of Safe Harbor findings, review process for contested findings and discrepancies in information contained in the report).
- Continued to work cooperatively with you and OCWR staff on OCWR ADA inspections, as well as ADA cases as they arise.

Please contact Leonard Mbuko at 202.226.2041 or me at 202.226.4701 if you have questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



Patricia Williams, CSP  
Director, Safety and Code Compliance

Enclosures