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DATE [on or before Monday, June 16, 2025]

Filed to www.regulations.gov under [DOE-HQ-2025-0015](#) and [DOE-HQ-2025-0024](#)

Emailed to DOEGeneralCounsel@hq.doe.gov

Department of Energy
Office of Civil Rights and EEO
1000 Independence Avenue SW, Room 5B-168
Washington, DC 20585

Department of Energy
Office of Minority Economic Impact
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20585

[DOE-HQ-2025-0024](#) Nondiscrimination

[DOE-HQ-2025-0015](#) New Construction Requirements

To Whom It May Concern:

[Say your name and where you are from. Write a sentence or two about why you care about disability rights and accessibility. For example, you can say you are disabled, or someone you care about is disabled.]

I am writing to ask the Department of Energy (DOE) not to change the Section 504 rules. The Section 504 rules are important to me. Changing the rules could hurt many people with disabilities.

Section 504 says that places that get government money must be accessible to people with disabilities. If someone builds a new building, it must be accessible. 504 says people must follow certain rules to make new buildings accessible.

If someone makes alterations to a building, those changes also need to be accessible. Alterations are big changes to a building. For example, businesses sometimes add on parts to their buildings to make more space. If they do that, the new space has to be accessible.

Older buildings need to have plans to help make them as accessible as possible. But older buildings don't have to make the same changes new buildings do. It makes sense that the Section 504 rules are different for old and new buildings. It can be hard to make older buildings fully accessible. So the rules are less strict on older buildings.

But the 504 rules are strict about new buildings. They are strict about when alterations get made to buildings. Following the rules makes new buildings fully accessible. Following the rules makes alterations to buildings fully accessible.

These are very important Section 504 rules. Congress looked over these rules and agreed with them. Congress said that everyone should follow the rules. If everyone follows the rules, the U.S. will become more accessible.

It would be really bad if DOE changed the 504 rules. New buildings could get made that are not accessible. The point of the 504 rules is to make things more accessible. Changing the rules would go against what Section 504 says.

The law says that changing rules should take time. The government needs to think about the rules and talk to everyday people. DOE should slow down and take time to listen to people. DOE should not change these important rules.

Congress already looked over and said okay to the 504 Rules

The Section 504 rules go back to the 1970s. An agency called the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) wrote the rules. HEW had many meetings with Congress and with members of the public. To learn more, you can watch a movie called Crip Camp. This movie shows how people with disabilities fought to help pass the Section 504 rules. Hundreds of disabled people helped pass the Section 504 rules.

HEW wrote the 504 rules to give directions to U.S. government agencies. More than 80 U.S. government agencies started following the 504 rules. The DOE was one of these agencies. DOE should not try to change the rules more than 40 years later.

Right after HEW wrote the Section 504 rules, Congress passed the Rehabilitation Act. Congress said it agreed with the 504 rules. Congress added the 504 rules to the

Rehabilitation Act. The Supreme Court has looked at the rules and said they belong in the Rehabilitation Act. U.S. courts have spent years making sure people follow the rules.

The rules for Section 504 are important and make sense. DOE should not change them.

Accessibility rules are very important

DOE wants to get rid of a part of Section 504's rules. This part is about making new buildings and alterations to buildings accessible. The rule says that following the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) means that something is accessible. The UFAS are rules about what is accessible for people with disabilities.

Rules like the UFAS help keep things accessible. Builders know what they need to do to make their buildings accessible. They need to make sure what they build is accessible. For example, they need to measure the doorways, ramps, and walkways. Even messing up by a few inches can make something not accessible for disabled people.

But DOE wants the government to stop using the UFAS. If DOE gets rid of these 504 rules, builders who get money from the government will have problems. They won't know if what they build is actually accessible.

I disagree with the changes that DOE wants to make to the Section 504 rules. DOE should not change the rules.

Sincerely,

Name

If organization:

Title [for example, Executive Director]

Organization

Action Alert Instructions

ACTION ALERT:
Tell the Department of Energy to Stop Attacking Civil Rights and Section 504

The Department of Energy (DOE) is trying to get rid of important rules of Section 504! DOE is trying to change the rules that new buildings must be accessible to people with disabilities. They are also trying to get rid of other rules that help disability accessibility. Please make your voice heard and say “no” to these changes. You can send in a comment as part of an organization. You can also send a comment on your own. The deadline to send in comments is Monday, June 16, 2025.

Step One:

Write your comment to DOE about the Section 504 rules. Tell DOE why you care about accessibility. Explain why they should not get rid of the 504 rules.

You can download a template and edit it to make it your own. We have 2 templates you can use:

- [plain language template comment](#)
- [standard template comment](#)

The most important parts of the comment are:

- Telling DOE more about yourself and/or your organization
- Say why you care about accessibility of buildings

Step Two:

Send your comment online with [Regulations.gov](#). You need to send it to two different places.

You can write your comment right in the comment field if it fits. To fit, your comment has to be less than 5,000 characters. You can also write your comments in a document like a Word or PDF file. Then, you can attach the file with your comments:

Step Two, Part B:

Here is the second place to send your comments:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/DOE-HQ-2025-0024-0001>

This portal will work the same way as the first portal did.