# Congressional Outreach Template for Supporting REAADI and Including It in The Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA)

## Sample Script

**[INSERT NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION]** is working with
[The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies](http://www.disasterstrategies.org) (The Partnership) alongside Senator Casey (D-PA) and Congresswoman Dingell (D-MI) on a historic piece of disability and disaster legislation that will dismantle barriers faced by disaster-impacted people with disabilities, older adults, and people with access and functional needs; improve outcomes; and increase disaster resources for disability organizations, emergency managers, public health officials, and local communities.

We ask **[CONGRESSPERSON'S NAME]** to cosponsor The Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion for (REAADI) Disasters Act (S. 1049 / H.R. 2371) and support including REAADI as a title into the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) during PAHPA’s reauthorization. REAADI is a landmark disaster bill that will ensure people with disabilities and older adults have full and equal access to disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. It would bring the the United States one step closer to PAHPA’s goal of “[improving] the Nation’s public health and medical preparedness and response capabilities for emergencies, whether deliberate, accidental, or natural.”

Disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity, disproportionately impacting older adults and people with disabilities to such a degree that disabled people are two to four times more likely to die or be injured in a disaster. Disabled lives are at stake.Will **[CONGRESSPERSON'S NAME]** be a cosponsor and contact these offices today?

## Congressional Offices Contact Info

Your Congresspeople can contact the following offices to sign on:

**For Senators:**

* Contact Sen. Casey’s (D-PA) office:
	+ Emily Franzosa at Emily\_Franzosa@aging.senate.gov; and
	+ Michael Gamel-McCormick at Michael\_Gamel-McCormick@aging.senate.gov.

**For Representatives:**

* Contact Rep. Debbie Dingell’s (D-MI-6) office: Meg Makarewicz at Makarewicz@mail.house.gov.

## Information about REAADIxs

**REAADI:**

* Modifies and expands the National Advisory Committee on Individuals with Disabilities and Disasters (NACIDD) to ensure that it accurately reflects the diverse characteristics of the disability community;
* Ensures there is a strong disability and older adult voice throughout the preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation of disasters;
* Includes universal design and visitability standards, as well as reasonable modifications before, during and after disasters;
* Creates a network of disaster and disability centers focused on training, technical assistance, and research to assist states and localities to better include and support disaster-impacted people with disabilities, older adults and others who also have access and functional needs;
* Directs the Government Accountability Office to review the spending of disaster funds by federal agencies and states to ensure funds have been spent in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act;
* Creates a competitive grant program to pilot strategies for greater inclusion of people with disabilities, older adults and people with access and functional needs throughout disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation;
* Requires the Department of Justice to examine how the civil rights of people with disabilities and older adults are or are not upheld during and following disasters;
* Establishes in statute the Crisis Standards of Care issued by Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) during the pandemic and to apply those standards to all public health emergencies and disasters; and,
* Establishes a role for Centers for Independent Living throughout local disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.