

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING AND COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH AND THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Recognizing and commemorating the 75th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

75th Anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month

WHEREAS, October 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week;" and

WHEREAS, In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Workplaces welcoming of the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and strong economy; and

WHEREAS, Activities during this month will reinforce the value and talent people with disabilities add to our workplaces and communities and affirm [city's/county's/state's] commitment to an inclusive community that increases access and opportunities to all, including individuals with disabilities.

30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

WHEREAS, July 26, 2020 marked the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); and

WHEREAS, The goals of the ADA include equality of opportunity, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and independent living; and

WHEREAS, The ADA has played a historic role in enabling people with disabilities to fully participate in all aspects of society by removing barriers to employment, public services, public accommodations, public and private transportation, telework, telecommunications, websites, online systems, mobile apps, and other forms of information and communication technology; and

WHEREAS, Every person in the United States, not just people with disabilities, benefit from covered entities adopting principles of universal design with respect to buildings, modes of transportation, websites, and other technologies procured and used by covered entities;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the [state/city/county of ...] recognize and commemorate the 75th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the [state/city/county of] call upon employers, schools, and other community organizations in [city/county, state of...] to observe October with appropriate programs and activities, and to advance its important message that people with disabilities add value and talent to our workplaces and communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the [state/city/county of] encourage agencies, businesses, and all members of the public to celebrate the advancement of the American Dream for All made possible by the enactment of the ADA; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the [state/city/county of...] pledge to continue to take steps throughout the year to recruit, hire, retain, and advance individuals with disabilities and implement the ADA and work to pursue the goals of the ADA—equality of opportunity, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and independent living for people with disabilities.