



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, New Yorkers join to recognize milestones of progress in our nation's commitment to strengthening and improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, helping them realize their potential, and working to advance their goals and priorities; we therefore join in marking the observance of the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the historic enactment of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA); and

Whereas, New York State strives to protect the rights and liberties of all people through legislation prohibiting discrimination – including the *New York State Human Rights Law* enacted in 1945 as the first law of its kind in the United States – and which was broadened in 1974 to protect people with disabilities, representing one of the earliest advancements of this cause and firmly establishing New York State as a leader and champion of people with disabilities; and

Whereas, on the national level, a response to the needs of individuals with disabilities came on July 26, 1990, when the ADA was signed into law, and this legislation was hailed as one of the most important steps taken to protect the civil rights of people with disabilities, as the ADA would guarantee people with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in every facet of life in their communities and places of work; and

Whereas, the impact of this legislation on our society has been significant and is evidenced in the increased accessibility throughout our communities, increased numbers of people with disabilities who are able to work, attend school, and who today utilize various modes of transportation with greater convenience and ease, proving that mobility is a key to independence; and

Whereas, New York State recognizes the need to continue ensuring that our policies and practices, programs, services, and new technologies allow all citizens – those with disabilities as well as those without disabilities – to enjoy the healthiest and highest quality of life with confidence, independence and hope for a brighter future; and

Whereas, New York State continues to support the inclusion, integration, and independence of our disability community and provide the resources to enable people with disabilities to thrive in our state, including by establishing the first-ever Office of the Chief Disability Officer for New York State; and

Whereas, advocates, families, professionals, persons with disabilities and supporters of individuals with disabilities commemorate the enactment of the ADA and the added importance it has given to the word *freedom* for so many others; our state joins in recognizing this landmark legislation and sets aside this day to mark the anniversary of its enactment as we celebrate the achievements and contributions of persons with disabilities to our greater society – in addition, all people and communities across New York State are encouraged on this day, and every day, to remember that people with disabilities are deserving of the same right to a life enhanced by personal growth and the promise of opportunity;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2022 as

## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AWARENESS DAY

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twentieth  
day of July in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Kathy Hochul  
Governor

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh