

# Proclamation

## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT DAY

**WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush on July 26, 1990, after being approved in overwhelming and bipartisan votes by both the House and the Senate; passage of the ADA is now celebrated annually in North Carolina and throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA was crafted to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities; to provide civic, social, affordable and accessible housing, and economic opportunities previously denied; to change our nation's perspectives on people with disabilities; and to create a more inclusive and accepting society; and

**WHEREAS**, by providing people with the means to engage more fully in community life, economic activities, and social events, the ADA benefits everyone; people who were unable to contribute to their communities, now can; people whose voices were previously not heard can participate in civic dialogue; people who were once marginalized and isolated are now recognized as valuable and respected members of society; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA was the first national-level legislation in the world aimed at providing opportunities for people with disabilities; since its adoption, it has inspired many other nations to craft their own laws, thereby improving opportunities for people around the globe; and

**WHEREAS**, despite significant positive changes brought about by the ADA, many challenges persist; data show that people with disabilities still lag significantly behind others in employment rate and income; national debates continue to rage concerning health care policies with some plans being potentially devastating for people with disabilities; and, as with other marginalized groups, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges, making even more urgent the need to continue to address these.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Barbara M. Foushee, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, hereby proclaim July 26, 2024 as "Americans with Disabilities Act Day" in the Town of Carrboro. I encourage all residents to celebrate the positive changes brought about by the ADA, to reaffirm our commitment to accessibility and inclusiveness, and to build a space where each individual can use the full measure of their talents, capabilities and passions for the betterment of the entire community.

This, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024.

  
Barbara M. Foushee

