



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**

**GOVERNOR**

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT DAY**

**2018**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, establishing a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans with disabilities by reducing barriers, changing perceptions, and increasing opportunities for full participation and inclusion in community life; and

**WHEREAS**, continued commitment to the principles of the ADA is necessary to help individuals with disabilities reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, as of 2016, more than 1.3 million people in North Carolina over the age of five live with a form of disability; this number accounts for more than 13 percent of our state's population; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 720,000 of these individuals are between the working ages of 18 and 64, of which less than 35 percent are employed – a stark contrast to the nearly 76 percent of North Carolinians of working age without disabilities who are employed; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2017 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium, the median annual earnings of civilian North Carolinians without disabilities is nearly \$10,000 greater than those with a disability, contributing to the nearly 14 percent poverty gap between those with and without disabilities in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 26, 2018, our state and nation will commemorate the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, recognizing and celebrating the progress that has been made; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina encourages people to reaffirm the principles of equality and inclusion laid out in the ADA, and recommit our efforts to reach full ADA compliance so that every person in our state has the opportunity to succeed; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2018, as “**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT DAY**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fifth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.