

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM**

**2020**

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

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the Civilian Vocational Rehabilitation Act, commonly called the Smith-Fess Act, on June 2, 1920; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated one in five North Carolinians will acquire a disability during their lifetime and may benefit from vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to overcome disability-related barriers to employment; and

**WHEREAS**, society's evolving understanding of disability is reflected in the transformation of VR from a program narrowly focused on people with physical impairments to a program providing a wide range of services and supports that lead to high-quality, competitive employment, as well as increased independence and community participation for people with diverse disabilities, including significant and complex disabilities; and

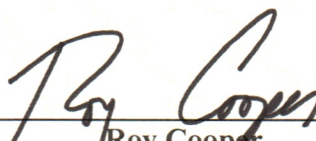
**WHEREAS**, in recognition that a workforce reflecting the talents of all people, including those with disabilities, is critical to building inclusive communities and a strong economy, Executive Order No. 92 (2019) declares North Carolina an Employment First state and directs the Office of State Human Resources to transform state government into a model employer of people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Division of Services for the Blind, in collaboration with public and private sector partners, help North Carolinians with disabilities excel in their chosen careers, earn competitive wages and benefits and positively impact their employers, communities, and the state economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Smith Fess Act calls attention to beneficial partnership between the state and federal government to provide VR services to individuals with disabilities seeking competitive employment and to employers seeking to hire, retain, and advance qualified employees with disabilities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June, 2020, as the "**100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM**" 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 June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.