



WHEREAS, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, schools, transportation, and all areas of public life; and,

WHEREAS, in the United States, 19 percent of the population aged five and older have some level of disability, representing 56.7 million people in the nation; more than two million of those citizens reside in Illinois, comprising 13 percent of the state's population; and,

WHEREAS, the passage of the ADA represents a major step toward protecting civil rights and improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities, persons who were often subject to discrimination and lacked federal protection; and,

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

WHEREAS, Illinois has a long history of protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities, going back 38 years to the passage of the Illinois Human Rights Act on December 6, 1979, which made discrimination against any person with a physical or mental handicap illegal; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois and its agencies are committed to continuing efforts to implement the ADA and ensure that people with disabilities are able to fully participate in employment, transportation, education, communication, and community opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, Illinoisans will celebrate the and recognize the progress that has been made by honoring the 27th anniversary of the ADA's civil rights guarantee for individuals with disabilities on July 20, 2017, with special events in Springfield and Chicago;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim July 20, 2017, as **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT DAY** in Illinois and encourage all citizens to reaffirm the principles of equality and inclusion; recognize the historical significance of the ADA; and in turn, do their part to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the mainstream community life.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this NINETEENTH *day of* JUNE *, in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
SEVENTEEN *, and of the State of Illinois,*
one hundred and NINETY-NINTH *.*



Debbie White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR