



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Colorado wishes to celebrate, promote, and protect the human rights of people with disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, according to the US Census over 625,000 Coloradans live with one or more disability, and the proportion of individuals with disabilities and those who are aging in Colorado is growing; and

WHEREAS, awareness must be raised that segregated institutions, policies, programs, and services are not only more financially costly to our society, but are also costly to those with disabilities who desire to live independent, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities in Colorado is double the unemployment rate of people without disabilities, and Coloradans with disabilities are twice as likely to live below the Federal Poverty Level than those without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, representation of Coloradans with disabilities in government, on boards and commissions, and in elected offices at all levels is essential to creating fairness, justice, and equity in our systems and institutions; and

WHEREAS, it has been 35 years since the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, establishing a comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities, yet barriers to equity in access to housing, transportation, healthcare, employment, and independent living remain for Coloradans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's deep roots in the disability rights movement and commitment to future progress, liberty, justice, and equity for all Coloradans remain strong; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Polis-Primavera Administration supported the establishment of a Task Force on the Rights of Coloradans with Disabilities who in January 2025 presented recommendations to remove barriers to housing, outdoor recreation, and government for Coloradans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Polis-Primavera Administration supported the establishment of the Colorado Disability Opportunity Office to ensure ongoing opportunities for Coloradans with disabilities well into the future; and

WHEREAS, building a Colorado For All means ensuring every person can thrive in our beautiful state and the most effective way to increase awareness is through openness to learn and acknowledge that there are systemic barriers that reduce the likelihood of Coloradans with disabilities to enjoy equitable experiences and live independent, productive lives within their communities;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, and I, Dianne Primavera, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby declare March 6, 2025, as

DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY DAY

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this sixth day of March, 2025



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor