



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

July 25, 2019

Senator/Representative
Washington, DC

Dear Senator/Representative,

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) write in recognition of the 29th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the ADA. The ADA is the nation's most comprehensive civil rights law addressing the needs of people with disabilities. The law prohibits disability-based discrimination in employment, public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications. It is a carefully constructed law reflecting compromises that ensure flexibility for covered entities, including the business community while at the same time opening the doors of society to people with disabilities.

Over the last 29 years, tremendous strides have been made in removing barriers for people with disabilities to employment, transportation, businesses, public services, and telecommunications. The ADA has enabled society to benefit from the skills, talents, and purchasing power of individuals with disabilities and leads to more productive and inclusive lives for all Americans. Without the ADA, our economy would not have the full benefit of workers with disabilities and our communities would not reflect the full diversity of our nation.

Most businesses, including hotels, grocery stores, doctors' offices, and restaurants are considered to be public accommodations under the ADA. Businesses can receive free technical assistance through the federally funded ADA National Network (<https://adata.org>). The ADA National Network has 10 regional centers located throughout the country that can provide individual assistance, in-person trainings, webinars, and publications about the ADA. Additional assistance is available for businesses at <https://www.ada.gov/> and toll-free ADA Information by calling 800-514-0301 (voice); 800-514-0383 (TTY).

Tax incentives are also available to help eligible businesses remove barriers, including a specific small business tax credit. The small business tax credit is available to those businesses with

total revenues of \$1,000,000 or less in the previous tax year or 30 or fewer full-time employees. This credit can cover 50 percent of the eligible access expenditures in a year up to \$10,250 (maximum credit of \$5,000) and can be used to offset the cost of undertaking barrier removal and alterations to improve accessibility; providing accessible formats such as Braille or large print; making available a sign language interpreter; and purchasing certain adaptive equipment. The tax deduction is available to all businesses with a maximum deduction of \$15,000 per year and can be claimed for expenses incurred in barrier removal and alterations. Additional information is available at <https://adata.org/factsheet/quicktips-tax>.

This month marks the 29th anniversary of the ADA, and while the law has made enormously important changes, many barriers to inclusion of people with disabilities remain. We urge you to ensure that implementation and enforcement of the ADA continue, and that no steps are taken to weaken the ADA's protections. We also urge you to reach out to CCD, which collectively represents millions of Americans with all types of disabilities, when considering any legislative proposals that may have an impact on the ADA. By protecting the ADA and providing greater investments in ADA technical assistance and even more robust tax incentives or other similar mechanisms to assist businesses in complying with the law, we can ensure a more just and equitable society.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association on Health and Disability
American Civil Liberties Union
American Dance Therapy Association
American Foundation for the Blind
American Music Therapy Association
American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Association of People Supporting Employment First
ATAP
AUCD
Autism Society of America
Autism Speaks
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
Brain Injury Association of America
Center for Public Representation
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Council for Exceptional Children
Council for Learning Disabilities
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
The Jewish Federations of North America
Justice in Aging
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools
National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Health Law Program
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization on Disability
National Respite Coalition
Paralyzed Veterans of America
RespectAbility
School Social Work Association of America
SourceAmerica
TASH, Inc.
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States
The National Council on Independent Living
United Spinal Association