

July 5, 2022

Dear Congressional leaders,

We write to you in strong support of recognizing July as Disability Pride Month. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed on July 26, 1990, to prohibit discrimination against people living with a disability. Following the passage of this historic legislation the city of Boston, Massachusetts held the first Disability Pride Day event in July of 1990. Since the ADA's passage, communities across our country have commemorated its passage by celebrating Disability Pride Month in July. But Disability Pride Month is not officially recognized on the federal level.

The ADA was only a starting point, and there remains significant room for progress towards a more equitable and inclusive country for all people living with a disability. People living with a disability remain at an increased risk of experiencing discrimination and inequities. There is still much work to be done.

Disability Pride Month celebrates disability and diversity among disabilities. It will provide opportunities for participation and education, and spread awareness of disability justice, inclusion, intersectionality, and accessibility and contribute to advocacy for the rights of children and adults who have disabilities as well as help confront ableism and systemic discrimination.

Recognition of Disability Pride Month is an important step towards achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

Allina Health
American Association on Health and Disability
Amputee Coalition of America
Autism Society of Minnesota
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Brain Injury Association of America
Cure SMA
Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota
Family Voices
Family Voices of Minnesota
Gillette Children's
Lifeworks
Minnesota First Community Solutions
Multicultural Autism Action Network
National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
ONE Community
RespectAbility
Special Olympics