

**PROCLAMATION TO CELEBRATE  
NATIONAL DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**WHEREAS**, National Disability Independence Day commemorates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990. The ADA provides protection from employment discrimination as well as better access to goods, services, and communications for people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, The day not only celebrates the anniversary of the ADA but it also serves several other purposes. The law first broke down barriers that individuals with disabilities faced every day. It also marked a timeline of change that soon developed. Over time, common barriers such as narrow doors and small bathroom stalls became accessible to wheelchairs. Other examples include braille signs and crosswalks for the vision impaired. The changes improved mobility and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Beyond structural changes, the Americans with Disabilities Act motivated designers to enhanced technology. Often, physical limitations restrict a person's ability to access legal or health information. New assistive technologies make it possible to obtain the necessary information; and

**WHEREAS**, As accessibility improves, the world continues to change in other ways. Many of today's brick and mortar businesses are ADA compliant. However, as more and more businesses switch to online versions, their websites need to meet the needs to be accessible, too. With each advancement in technology, designers need to incorporate multifunctional approaches to fit every ability; and

**WHEREAS**, We encourage all employers or designers to consider how accessible your business is to people with disabilities. The ADA empowers people with disabilities to stand up for their rights and to give shout outs to accessible businesses and organizations. Everyone is encouraged to use #DisabilityIndependenceDay and share on social media;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Selectboard of the Town of Great Barrington hereby recognizes **July 26, 2022 as National Disability Independence Day**, the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act that passed in 1990; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Town of Great Barrington Selectboard calls upon our citizens, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to affirm the principals of equality and inclusion for persons with disabilities; to celebrate the freedom the ADA inspires with forward- thinking design and technology; and to bring forth the promise of hope and freedom that is envisioned by the passage of the ADA.