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Folder Title:
Disability - POTUS Statements

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Diane Ikemiyashiro

10/20/98 03:48:28 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jonathan M. Young/WHO/EOP, Cynthia Dailard/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: form letter -- people with disabilities

The following draft is a form letter for concerns regarding Americans with disabilities. Can you please let me know if this is good to go? The draft has already gone through final editing, and all I need is your approvals.

Thanks so much,

di

Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

As America approaches the dawn of the 21st century, we must reaffirm our commitment to embracing the creativity and energy of all our people. It is of critical importance that we work to integrate the 54 million Americans with disabilities into every aspect of our national life and to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act.

My Administration is committed to ensuring that citizens with disabilities have every opportunity to pursue the American Dream, including access to quality health care services, goods jobs, and truly open communities. Much remains to be done if we are to achieve the independence, inclusion, and empowerment of all people with disabilities.

Last year, I signed into law the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, reaffirming and strengthening our national commitment to make quality education available to all our children. And I was proud, in the early days of my Administration, to support and sign into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, which makes workplaces more accommodating to the many families that include a child or adult with a disability. We are also dedicated to removing barriers to employment for people with disabilities. Our return-to-work proposals, currently pending in Congress, would offer better access to rehabilitation services and health insurance for recipients of Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income who want to return to work. I will join with Congress in an effort to enact these important proposals. I am also proud of the progress we have made in the areas of housing, telecommunications, and transportation for people with disabilities.

We cannot rest until America has a national disability policy

based on inclusion, independence, and empowerment. I am confident that, working together, we can realize our vision of an America where everyone has the opportunity to live out his or her dreams. As we work toward this vital goal, I appreciate your interest.

fax# 67431

Cynthia Barclay

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 24, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FIRST LADY'S STAFF (MELANNE VERVEER)
PHIL CAPLAN (SEAN MALONEY)
CHARLES RUFF
THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR.
LARRY STEIN
✓ BRUCE REED
CRAIG SMITH
MINYON MOORE
VIRGINIA APUZZO
STEPHANIE STREETT - FYI

FROM:

Lana Dickey/Maureen Hudson
for DAN BURKHARDT

SUBJECT:

(Draft Proclamation)
National Disability Employment
Awareness Month, 1998

Attached for your review is the above-mentioned proclamation designating October 1998 as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

It was submitted by the Department of Labor, through the Office of Management and Budget, and edited/revised by the Presidential Letters and Messages Office.

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED. Written or oral response required by no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 25, 1998. IF WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU BY 5:00 p.m., WE WILL ASSUME THAT THE DRAFT IS ACCEPTABLE TO YOU.

For questions, discussion, or routine clearance, contact Lana Dickey, extension 65504, or Maureen Hudson, extension 65902, via phone or interoffice mail, in room 91. Thank you.

cc: Tim Saunders

09/24/98 THU 10:09 FAX

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH, 1998

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Today, America is enjoying great prosperity, with the prospect of an even brighter future in the 21st century. Our economy is the strongest it has been in a generation. We have created more than 16 million new jobs in the past 5 years, and we are witnessing the lowest inflation rate in three decades, the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, and the smallest welfare rolls in 29 years. But we cannot consider ourselves truly successful until all Americans, including the 30 million working-age adults with disabilities, have access to the tools and opportunities they need to achieve economic independence. ✓

It has been 8 years since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), legislation that is making it possible for millions of Americans to participate more fully in our society. However, the unemployment rate among people with disabilities, especially those with significant disabilities, is still far too high. Almost 75 percent of working-age Americans with severe disabilities remain unemployed. If America is to live up to its promise of equal opportunity, and if our economy is to continue to strengthen and expand, we must be able to draw on the untapped energy, talents, and creativity of this large and capable segment of our population. ✓

Recognizing that there are still significant barriers for people with disabilities, I issued an Executive Order last March to establish the National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities. I charged the Task Force with creating a coordinated and aggressive national strategy to make equality of opportunity, full participation, inclusion, and economic self-sufficiency a reality for all working-age Americans with disabilities. I have also directed the Attorney General, the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to increase ✓

public awareness of rights and responsibilities under the ADA. It is particularly important to reach out in this effort to the small business community, because it employs most of our Nation's private work force.

Employment is a sure path to economic security and to personal and professional fulfillment. I salute the business, labor, and disability community leaders, government officials, community organizations, and concerned citizens who are working together to remove the remaining obstacles on that path so that all Americans with disabilities have the opportunity to contribute to our national life.

To recognize the great potential of people with disabilities and to encourage all Americans to work toward their full integration in the work force, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 155), has designated October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 1998 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, educators, labor leaders, employers, and the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that reaffirm our determination to fulfill both the letter and the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
day of _____, in the year of our Lord
nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of
the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

Record Type: Record

To: Diane Ikemiyashiro/WHO/EOP
cc:
bcc:
Subject: Re: disabilities proclamation

This looks great. I made only a few tiny changes.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH, ~~1988~~ 1998
By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Today, we are enjoying a time of unprecedented growth and prosperity in America, with the prospect of an even brighter future in the twenty-first century. Our economy is the strongest it has been in a generation. We have 16.3 million new jobs, the lowest core inflation in three decades, the lowest unemployment in 28 years, and the lowest welfare rolls in 29 years. But we cannot consider ourselves truly successful until ALL Americans, including the 30 million working-age adults with disabilities, have access to the resources and opportunities they need to make the most of their lives. Our Nation's strength depends upon our ability to foster the creativity and energy of all our citizens; and even as we commemorate the eighth anniversary of the landmark civil rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, which is making it possible for millions of Americans to participate more fully in society, we are reminded that significant challenges remain.

The unemployment rate among people with disabilities, especially those with significant disabilities, is far too high. ~~A little more than half of working-age Americans with disabilities are employed, and more than 70 percent of~~ In fact, close to 75 percent of working-age people with severe disabilities remain unemployed.

We must and can do better by expanding opportunities for every American who is willing to take responsibility for making the most of his or her abilities. Workforce diversity will provide the framework to meet this challenge and enable American business and industry to continue to remain competitive in the ever-expanding global economy. From Pennsylvania Avenue to Wall Street to Main Street, with talent, hard work, and profound proficiency, workers with disabilities have and will continue to strengthen and contribute to our workforce.

We have made great strides in eliminating overt discrimination in the workplace, but our progress has not been fast enough to make a difference to the millions of unemployed Americans with disabilities. To help address employment barriers for people with disabilities, I was proud to issue Executive Order 13078 on March 13, 1998,

establishing the National Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities. The Task Force will create a coordinated and aggressive national strategy to make equality of opportunity, full participation, inclusion, and economic self-sufficiency realities for all 30 million working-age Americans with disabilities.

I congratulate those leaders of business and industry, labor, and the community from all walks of life who have fully implemented the ADA by opening their doors to ability. Employment is the key to economic security for Americans. And it is up to all of us -- employers, labor leaders, ~~people with disabilities~~, and government -- to open our doors and let employees with disabilities in.

To recognize the tremendous potential of individuals with disabilities and to encourage all Americans to work toward their full integration in the workforce, the Congress, by joint resolution, approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 155), has designated October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this -- day of _____, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty third.

Diane Ikemiyashiro

Diane Ikemiyashiro

09/09/98 02:58:37 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia Dailard/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: disabilities proclamation

Hi, Cynthia --

Per my e-mail to you this morning, here's my draft for NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH, 1998.

Thanks so much for all of your help.