



National Rehabilitation Week, 1993 and 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Millions of Americans with disabilities are able to achieve independence and lead active, productive lives with the assistance of rehabilitation therapy. Estimates indicate that half of the Nation's population will at some point in their lives need assistance in overcoming some form of physical, mental, emotional, or social disability. "National Rehabilitation Week" seeks to recognize not only the individuals who have learned to cope with their disabilities but also the dedicated health care professionals who have provided assistance through research, education, and therapy.

In tribute to these individuals and their many contributions to our society, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 50, has designated the periods beginning September 19 and ending September 25, 1993, and beginning September 18 and ending September 24, 1994, as National Rehabilitation Week, and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of these weeks.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the periods beginning September 19, 1993, and ending September 25, 1993, and beginning September 18, 1994, and ending September 24, 1994, as National Rehabilitation Week. I call upon all Americans to observe these weeks with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities as an expression of their support.

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

William J. Clinton



National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Down syndrome, the most common genetic birth defect associated with mental retardation, affects 4,000 babies a year from all ethnic and societal backgrounds. As little as twenty years ago, people with Down syndrome were stigmatized or, all too frequently, institutionalized. Now, happily, they are benefitting from important advances in research, education, and health care.

Over the past two decades, scientists have applied the technology of molecular genetics and other sciences to the study of Down syndrome. Researchers are looking for the genes, or combination of genes, on chromosome 21 that have a relationship to the development of intelligence and the physical disorders associated with Down syndrome. They are also looking for a possible relationship between Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease.

There is a wide variation in mental abilities, behavior, and physical development in individuals with Down syndrome. However, individuals with Down syndrome benefit from loving homes, early intervention, special education, mainstreaming, appropriate medical care, and positive public attitudes—all made possible through the efforts of researchers, service providers, physicians, teachers, and parent support groups. In addition, such government agencies as the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute on Aging, components of the National Institutes of Health; the Maternal and Child Health Bureau; and the President's Committee on Mental Retardation have worked in concert with private organizations like the National Down Syndrome Congress and the National Down Syndrome Society to help those affected by this congenital disorder.

To help promote greater understanding of Down syndrome, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 92, has designated the month of October 1993 as "National Down Syndrome Awareness Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of October 1993 as National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. I invite all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton



National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The United States has long been a champion of the civil rights of individuals, and it is only natural that we now serve in the forefront of efforts to ensure equal opportunity for persons with disabilities. Inspired by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990, other nations have begun to reexamine the challenges faced by their citizens with disabilities. The ADA, which prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, government services, transportation, and communications, provides a practical model for people everywhere to ensure that individuals with disabilities will not be excluded from the social, cultural, and economic mainstream.

Together we have begun shifting disability policy in America from exclusion to inclusion; from dependence to independence; from paternalism to empowerment. And we have made a firm commitment—a national pledge of civil rights for people with disabilities—to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act. We cannot be satisfied until all citizens with disabilities receive equal treatment under the law, whether in the workplace, in schools, in government, or in the courts. We will not be satisfied as a Nation until we have fully implemented the laws that offer equal opportunity for Americans with disabilities, including the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

We do not have a single person to waste. Citizens with disabilities want to lead full, independent, and productive lives. They want to work; they want to pay their fair share of taxes; they want to be self-supporting citizens. America must enable the 43 million talented Americans with disabilities to contribute by offering them the individualized training and education we offer everyone else.

Our Nation can ill afford to waste this vast and only partially tapped source of knowledge, skills, and talent. In addition to being costly—over \$300 billion is expended annually at the Federal, State, and local levels to financially support potentially independent individuals—this waste of human ability cannot be reconciled with our tradition of individual dignity, self-reliance, and empowerment. As we work to achieve thorough and harmonious implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will open the doors of opportunity for millions of people, thereby expanding, not only the ranks of the employed, but also the ranks of consumers. These individuals and their families will thus be able to pursue the real American Dream.

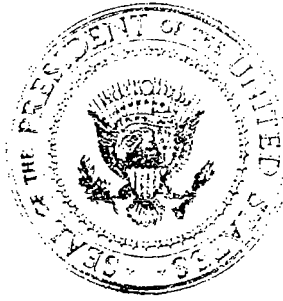
I congratulate the small business and industry leaders, labor leaders, and community leaders from all walks of life who are working together to implement the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, and I commit the resources and cooperation of the Federal Government toward that effort. Our ongoing progress attests to the fundamental vitality and openness of our free enterprise system and to our abiding commitment to civil rights for all. Every American needs a chance to contribute. Our work is far from finished. America needs the continued leadership of every citizen to fulfill the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act and related laws.

The Congress, by joint resolution approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 155) has called for the designation of October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." This month is a special time for all Americans to recognize the tremendous potential of citizens with disabilities and to renew our commitment to full inclusion and equal opportunity for them, as for every citizen.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 1993 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I call on all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that affirm 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 sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton



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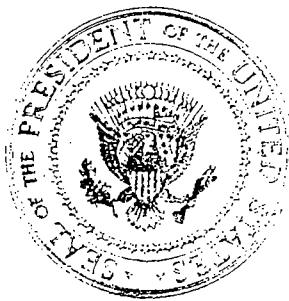
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William Clinton