



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 15-4272, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **HONORING THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

**WHEREAS**, on July 26, 1990, our nation committed itself to the elimination of discrimination against people with disabilities through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, the National Council on Disability (NCD) recommended enactment of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and drafted the first version of the bill which was introduced in the House and Senate in 1988; and

**WHEREAS**, after the spectacular Senate vote of 76 to 8 on September 7, 1989, the Bill went to the House where it was considered by an unprecedented four Committees and later approved and signed as a law; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA began with the establishment of the independent living movement, which challenged the notion that people with disabilities needed to be institutionalized, and which fought for and provided services for people with disabilities to live in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the hard work and the coalescing of lawyers and advocates, top level negotiators and policy analysts, disability organizations, lobbyists, protesters, witnesses, and many more groups from all areas of the country formed the disability rights movement to help the passage of the ADA; and

**WHEREAS**, people with disabilities went to Washington D.C. to talk to members of Congress, to advocate for the Bill, and to explain why each provision was necessary while others wrote letters, attended town meetings, and made endless phone calls; and

**WHEREAS**, for the first time, the exclusion and segregation of people with disabilities was viewed as discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, before the ADA, no federal law prohibited private sector discrimination against people with disabilities, outside a federal grant or contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on a disability and offers similar protections against discrimination to Americans with disabilities as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, and other characteristics illegal; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA protects people with both mental and physical disabilities regardless of the severity or permanency of such disability; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA requires covered employers to provide reasonable accommodations to employees with disabilities, and imposes accessibility requirements on public accommodations; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA was created on a basic presumption that people with disabilities want to work and

capable members of their communities and that exclusion and segregation cannot be tolerated; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the passage of the ADA, persons with a disability continue to be treated with dignity and accommodating them is no longer a matter of charity; but a basic issue of civil rights.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does, hereby joins the rest of the country in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the monumental signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body.