

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, disability is a natural part of the human experience and over 12% of Missoula residents live with one or more disabilities; and

WHEREAS, 33 years ago the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the first comprehensive declaration of civil rights for people with disabilities prohibiting discrimination based solely on one's disability status, became law on July 26, 1990; and

WHEREAS, the ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans living with disabilities to participate in the mainstream of American life, enjoy employment opportunities, purchase goods and services, and be treated as equal and valued members of society; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that community participation by individuals with disabilities is vital to the success of our community and while many barriers towards that end have been removed, much more work is needed to realize the full potential of the ADA and to reduce attitudinal barriers, labels, and stigmas towards people with disabilities that are still all too prevalent.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jordan Hess, Mayor of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, hereby proclaim the 26th day of July, 2023 as:

A DAY TO COMMEMORATE THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

in Missoula, Montana and recognize the hard work and sacrifice of disability advocates and policymakers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that people living with disabilities have access to the same rights and opportunities as everyone else and to reaffirm our commitment to fully implement the ADA. We dedicate ourselves and encourage all citizens to commit to continue working to fulfill the promise of the ADA for a more fair, accessible, and interconnected community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, to be affixed at Missoula, Montana, this 26th day of July in the year two thousand twenty-three.



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Jordan Hess
Mayor