



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Nineteen years ago, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which gives more than 50 million Americans — including four million Texans — protection from discrimination in employment and better access to goods, services and communications. On January 1, 2009, the ADA Amendment Act went into effect, more clearly defining certain terms in the ADA to provide even better protections for people with disabilities in employment and other life activities.

Texas businesses and government entities have readily complied with the ADA, accommodating employees and clients with disabilities by providing flexible work hours, sign language interpreters and accessible web sites, and by purchasing adaptive technology when needed. Compliance with state and federal access requirements has also resulted in the issuance of thousands of Access for All Decals by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and widespread availability of Relay Texas, a telephone interpreting service for people with hearing disabilities.

Expanded opportunities for Texans with disabilities include increased funding for health and disability-related research, increased accessibility to buildings and information, improved assistance during emergencies, and increased opportunities for Texans with developmental disabilities to live in community-based settings. Thousands of Texans each month receive information about disability-related issues, including the ADA, through the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities and its web site, <http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/>.

I understand the importance of honoring the principles of the ADA, and have supported legislation that ensures that Texans with disabilities are better equipped to live and work in their communities. The 81st Texas Legislature passed, and I signed into law, various bills that build on the ADA's promise and demonstrate Texas' commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities. These bills include expansions in health coverage and resources for people with autism; provisions for an enhanced Medicaid buy-in program for children with disabilities; and the creation of a committee to study issues relating to Texas' aging population.

At this time, I urge all Texans to continue to work toward the principles of the ADA — equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency — because we all benefit when Texans with disabilities can fully participate in activities in our state.

Therefore I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2009,



ADA Awareness Day

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
8th day of July, 2009.


Governor of Texas