In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law, calling it a long overdue "independence day" for Americans with disabilities. The ADA was the first comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities, prohibiting discrimination in employment and providing accessibility requirements in public accommodations, transportation, telecommunications, and much more.

I am proud to recognize the key roles played by Texans in passing the ADA—from President Bush to architects of the law such as Lex Frieden and former Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities Chair Justin Dart. Without their unwavering commitment to this significant work, we would not have made such great strides in ensuring accessibility and inclusion for all people with disabilities. The work of Texans in taking the ADA from a bill to reality remains an important chapter in the disability rights movement and in the story of Texas.

On the 30th anniversary of the passage of this landmark legislation, I encourage all Texans to reflect on our past achievements as well as remain focused on the work that remains before us to create a fully inclusive and accessible state for Texans with disabilities. Through continued commitment to fairness and equal opportunity, we can empower all Texans to rise above their circumstances and achieve their dreams.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in encouraging all Texans to gather and celebrate the anniversary of this historic legislation. Together, we can continue to work to create a state that is even more accessible and inclusive for all Texans.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin, this the 7th day of July, 2020.

Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas