

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-5), lead sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act, delivered the following remarks at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 11, 2010.

“The Americans with Disabilities Act doesn’t just matter to Americans with disabilities. It should matter to every American.”

“Every American deserves the opportunity to live independently. Every American deserves the opportunity to live with dignity and respect.”

“Those aren’t the principles of any party. They are our common American principles, as we saw when they were put to a vote in 1990.”

“Conservatives and liberals, activists and business leaders came together to make America more inclusive and more accessible.”

“Since then, the ADA has helped 50 million Americans realize that promise and live richer lives. It has paved the way for a more inclusive and accessible America.”

“We all can be proud on this anniversary. But that doesn’t mean the work of inclusion is done. If it were done, we wouldn’t need the ADA.”

“So as we celebrate this anniversary, let’s remember: the ADA wasn’t just a set of rules. It was a set of principles that have shaped a more inclusive and accessible America.”

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