

WASHINGTON, DC - House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement commemorating the 18th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act being signed into law on July 26, 1990 :

"Eighteen years ago tomorrow, the first President Bush signed into law one of the most consequential pieces of civil rights legislation in recent memory-the Americans With Disabilities Act. The ADA reaffirmed our nation's commitment to equality of opportunity, helping to ensure that millions of our fellow citizens with disabilities can enjoy the same rights as every other American: the right to inclusion; the right to use the same streets and work in the same offices; the right to succeed on talent and drive alone.

"Sadly, in the years since, the courts have chipped away at Congress's clear intent, excluding entire classes of people from the law's protection and leaving millions of Americans with disabilities at risk of discrimination. The ADA promised more, and it's time to keep that promise. That's why members of the disability community and business leaders have come together with representatives from both parties to create the ADA Amendments Act, a bill that reasserts Congress's intent to give the law broad application. Last month, it passed the House by a vote of 402-17. I hope that the Senate will pass it as well, and that the president will sign it.

"The ADA set the world standard for inclusion-18 years later, we cannot afford to fall behind."

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