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Representative Anderson Commemorates the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

FITCHBURG – Today, Representative Jimmy Anderson introduced a joint resolution to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the nation’s first comprehensive declaration of equal rights for people with disabilities, which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26th, 1990. Rep. Anderson released the following statement regarding the resolution:

“Thirty years ago, the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act represented the first time any country recognized the rights of people with disabilities to fully participate in public life. The ADA has in its 30 years proven to be pivotal in protecting the disabled from discrimination and affirming that a disability should not be a barrier to someone living a full and dignified life.

“For me, this commemoration is personal. I’m a legislator who uses a wheelchair and the ADA laid the foundation for me to run for office and, ultimately, serve my community. I’m proof that the ADA is working, and I hope to build on its legacy to make it easier for others with disabilities to also reach their fullest potential in their personal and professional lives.

“Broadly speaking, the impact of the ADA is unquestionable, but it’s impossible to ignore how much work remains. For proof, simply look to the COVID-19 health crisis. We are confronting a global pandemic in which the lives and contributions of people with disabilities are not equally valued in government relief programs, in emergency healthcare, in work and education, and in the general disregard of the increased risk of COVID-19 to the disability community. I believe this anniversary is the perfect opportunity to look at our disability policies at the state and federal levels and ask, what can we be doing better to eliminate these inequities?

“As President George H.W. Bush said when he signed the ADA into law, ‘let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down.’ On the 30th anniversary of this act, I call on my fellow legislators to rededicate ourselves to the promise of the ADA and empower every person with a disability to lead a life of purpose and dignity.”

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