

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, disability is a natural part of the human experience and approximately 11.7% of the Missoula population lives with one or more disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, thirty-one years ago the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the first comprehensive declaration of civil rights for people with disabilities prohibiting discrimination solely based on one's disability status, became law on July 26, 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans living with disabilities to participate in the mainstream of American life, to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to be treated as equal and valuable members of society; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that while barriers to equal opportunities have improved for people living with disabilities since 1990, there is much more work to do to ensure equal access to employment opportunities, the voting process, housing, health care, and many other life areas in addition to striving to reduce attitudinal barriers, labels, and stigmas still all too often inflicted upon disabled individuals.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, John Engen, Mayor of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, hereby recognize the 26th day of July, 2021 as:

## **A DAY TO COMMEMORATE THE 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

and recognize the hard work and sacrifice of the many disability advocates and policymakers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that people living with disabilities have access to the same rights and opportunities as everyone else and to dedicate ourselves to continuing their work towards a more just, accessible, and inclusive community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, to be affixed at Missoula, Montana, this 26th day of July, in the year two thousand twenty-one.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engen".

John Engen  
Mayor