

State of Maine



WHEREAS, across Maine, workplaces welcoming of the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of efforts to build an inclusive community and a strong economy; and

WHEREAS, while progress has been made, the employment rate of persons with disabilities in Maine is below 34 percent and less than half the employment rate for Maine people without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, it is critically important that Maine prepares youth with disabilities for an adulthood that includes employment; and

WHEREAS, Maine is an Employment First state, which requires state agencies providing services to people with disabilities to include employment as the first and preferred service or support option offered; and

WHEREAS, Maine is among only a few states across the country that has demonstrated a strong commitment to fair and equal labor standards by prohibiting the use of sub-minimum wages for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in healthcare, job loss, and social isolation; and

WHEREAS, activities during this month will reinforce the value and talent that people with disabilities add to our workplaces and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the great State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2020 as

Disability Employment Awareness Month

throughout the State of Maine and I urge all citizens to recognize this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the
Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed
GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this
fifth day of October Two Thousand Twenty

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State