

State of Maine



WHEREAS, workplaces across our state that are welcoming the diversity of all people, including people with disabilities, are critical to an inclusive community and a strong economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic in healthcare, job loss, and social isolation, but have contributed significantly as essential workers in jobs ranging from grocery clerks to Registered Nurses; and

WHEREAS, while the employment rate of persons with disabilities in Maine has improved, at over 35 percent it is less than half the employment rate for Maine people without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, it is critically important that the state of Maine prepares all youth, including those with disabilities, for careers and an adulthood that includes employment; and

WHEREAS, Maine is an Employment First state, which requires that state agencies providing services to people with disabilities, including those with autism, intellectual/developmental and behavioral health needs, offer employment as the first and preferred service option; and

WHEREAS, by prohibiting the use of sub-minimum wages for individuals with disabilities, Maine is a national leader with a demonstrated strong commitment to fair and equal labor standards; and

WHEREAS, through recognizing Disability Employment Awareness Month, we reinforce the value and talent that people with disabilities add to our workplaces and communities, as well as the power that inclusion brings to our national recovery;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the great State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2021 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 sixth day of October Two Thousand Twenty-One

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

TRUE ATTESTED COPY