

SENATOR BOB DOLE

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ADA

JULY 26, 1991

**MR PRESIDENT, ONE YEAR
AGO TODAY, TWO THOUSAND
PEOPLE GATHERED ON THE
WHITE HOUSE LAWN FOR THE
HISTORIC SIGNING OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT OF 1990.**

**THE ADA, WHICH PROHIBITS
DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS
OF DISABILITY IN EMPLOYMENT,
PUBLIC SERVICES, PUBLIC
ACCOMMODATIONS, AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WAS
THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE
CIVIL RIGHTS LAW TO BE
ENACTED SINCE 1964.**

**THE ADA'S ENACTMENT
MARKS ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT**

**CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE
BUSH ADMINISTRATION WERE
CRITICAL TO ITS SWIFT
PASSAGE.**

**THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION
NOT ONLY PLAYED A KEY ROLE
IN THE ADA'S CONSIDERATION,
BUT ALSO DEMONSTRATED ITS
COMMITMENT TO EFFECTIVE
IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH
PROMPT PROMULGATION OF**

**CIVIL RIGHTS ACHIEVEMENT FOR
OUR COUNTRY. MANY CRITICS
OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S CIVIL
RIGHTS POLICIES HAVE
NEGLECTED TO TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT HIS STRONG AND
CONSISTENT SUPPORT FOR THE
RIGHTS OF AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES. ALTHOUGH MANY
INDIVIDUALS DESERVE CREDIT
FOR THE ADA, THE**

**THE REGULATIONS. IT IS SAFE
TO SAY THAT ANOTHER
HISTORIC MILESTONE WAS
ACHIEVED WITH THEIR TIMELY
COMPLETION. MANY
INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING
ATTORNEY GENERAL DICK
THORNBURGH, EEOC CHAIRMAN
EVAN KEMP, AND THE
DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF
THE ARCHITECTURAL AND**

**TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS
COMPLIANCE BOARD (ATBCB),
DESERVE SPECIAL
RECOGNITION FOR THEIR
OUTSTANDING WORK.**

**MR. PRESIDENT, I AM
CONFIDENT THAT MY
COLLEAGUES SHARE MY
SENTIMENT THAT THE ADA IS
MORE THAN POLITICAL
POSTURING. IT'S ABOUT THE**

**INTEGRATION OF ALL CITIZENS
INTO EVERY ASPECT OF
AMERICAN SOCIETY. IT'S ABOUT
REAL PEOPLE WITH REAL LIFE
PROBLEMS.**

**YESTERDAY, FOR EXAMPLE, I
HEARD ELOQUENT AND MOVING
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
HUMAN RESOURCES ON THE
NEED TO ENSURE**

**INDEPENDENCE AND EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES.**

**THE HEARING, WHICH
ADDRESSED THE USE OF
PERSONAL ASSISTANCE
SERVICES (PAS), MADE IT CLEAR
THAT CONGRESS NEEDS TO
BUILD ON THE GAINS ACHIEVED
ONE YEAR AGO TODAY. IN HIS
POIGNANT TESTIMONY, TIM**

**STEININGER OF DODGE CITY,
KANSAS PERSUASIVELY
JUSTIFIED THE REVISION OF
CURRENT POLICIES TO INCLUDE
A COMPREHENSIVE AND
FLEXIBLE PAS PROGRAM. NO
DOUBT ABOUT IT, THE TIMELY
AND THOROUGH
CONSIDERATION OF SUCH A
PROGRAM IS ONE OF MY TOP
PRIORITIES.**

**WHY? BECAUSE I BELIEVE, AS
DO MY COLLEAGUES, THAT
EVERYONE DESERVES THE
RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.
IS THIS TOO MUCH FOR A
PERSON WITH A SEVERE
DISABILITY TO EXPECT OUT OF
LIFE? INCLUSION SHOULD MEAN
ENJOYING THE RIGHTS THAT
THOSE OF US FORTUNATE TO BE
SELF-SUFFICIENT TAKE FOR**

**GRANTED EVERYDAY. ISN'T
THAT WHAT THE ADA IS ALL
ABOUT?**

**MR. PRESIDENT, I AM
OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE
OF DISABILITY POLICY. LET'S
BUILD ON THE GAINS WE'VE
MADE TO ENSURE
INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM
FOR ALL AMERICANS.**