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**City of Traverse City Proclamation  
Commemorating 2020 as the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Americans with Disabilities Act**

July 26, 2020 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Prior to the enactment of the ADA, people with disabilities were often segregated and denied equality of opportunity due to fear, ignorance, prejudice, stereotypes, labels and systemic barriers. The ADA rejects these precepts and instead embraces the precept that disabilities are a natural and normal part of the human experience, and in no way diminish a person's right to fully participate in all aspects of society.

Goals of the ADA include equality of opportunity, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and independent living. The ADA exists because of the concerted, dedicated and persistent efforts of people from across the disability community with diverse identities and experiences.

In celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA, we celebrate all the advocates who fought to make disability non-discrimination a reality, including Justin Dart, Sylvia Walker, Michael Winter, and locally Susan Odgers, Thomas Hoxie, Wendy Williams, Melinda Hollands, Larry Wright and current and past staff of Disability Network of Northern Michigan, current and past members of the Disability Network of Northern Michigan Board of Directors, and current and past members of Disability Network of Northern Michigan Peer Advocacy and RICC groups, and countless others in our community.

The ADA has played a historic role in removing barriers to employment, public services, public accommodations, public and private transportation, telework, telecommunications, websites, online systems, mobile apps and other forms of information and communication technology. Every person in the United States, not only those with disabilities, benefit from the principles of universal design with respect to buildings, areas of public accommodation, modes of transportation, websites and other technologies. The law remains a crucial tool in addressing persistent discrimination, including failure to ensure competitive, integrated