



JULY IS
DISABILITY
PRIDE MONTH

WASHINGTON, DC
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



Proclamation



DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

JULY 2023

WHEREAS, each year, the month of July is designated in Washington, DC as Disability Pride Month, a time to recognize, honor, and celebrate the accomplishments, resilience, and diverse abilities of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges faced by people with disabilities, and to promote inclusivity, equality, and accessibility in all aspects of society; and

WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities contribute significantly to our communities, enriching our society with their unique perspectives, talents, and skills, and deserve to be celebrated and valued for their important contributions; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month seeks to challenge societal misconceptions and stereotypes associated with disabilities, fostering a culture of acceptance, understanding, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their abilities; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to create inclusive environments to empower individuals with disabilities to fully participate in all aspects of life, including education, employment, healthcare, and community engagement, among others; and

WHEREAS, by promoting Disability Pride Month and recognizing the rights of individuals with disabilities, we can work towards building a more equitable and accessible society that embraces diversity and promotes equal opportunities for all:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim the month of July 2023, as "DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH" in Washington, DC and do commend this observance to all Washingtonians.



History



On March 12, 1990, over 1,000 people marched from the White House to the U.S. Capitol to demand that Congress pass the Americans with Disabilities Act. Upon arrival, about 60 activists, including eight-year-old Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins, physically demonstrated the inaccessibility of public spaces by getting out of their wheelchairs or setting aside their mobility aids and crawling up the Capitol steps in an act of [civil disobedience](#) that later became known as the Capitol Crawl. 104 activists were arrested for unlawful demonstration, many of whom were in their wheelchairs.[\[17\]](#)

On July 26, 1990 [President George H.W. Bush](#) signed the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) into law. Each July is celebrated as Disability Pride Month in commemoration of the historic moment.[\[18\]](#)



The Experience

The concept of Disability Pride was born out of the [Disability Rights movement](#) and based on [intersectional identity politics](#) and [social justice](#).^[19] The core concept of Disability Pride is based on a tenet of reworking the negative narratives and biases that frequently surround the concept of disability.^[20] Disability Pride is a response and counteraction against [ableism](#) and [social stigma](#). The concept has roots in the same social theory that backs [LGBT Pride](#) and [Black Pride](#).^{[21][22]} Disability Pride is a movement intended to celebrate the history of the [Disability Rights movement](#) and people with disabilities as positive contributors to society.^[23] It marks a break from traditional concepts of disabilities as shameful conditions, which were often hidden from public spaces and mainstream awareness. Disability Pride is built upon the [social model of disability](#) and is described as moving away from the [medical model of disability](#).^{[24][25]}

[Disability Pride Month | dds \(dc.gov\)](https://dds.dc.gov)

Link to Video: “The Capitol Crawl”

- <https://youtu.be/AyEgIlrA7ko>

Questions or Suggestions



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