



NH Governor's Commission on Disability

ADA30 Transcript

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Jennifer Beaulieu Shares Her Personal Story about the ADA

July 26th marks the 30th anniversary of a landmark law called the Americans with Disabilities Act, also known as the ADA. As a member of the ADA generation who came of age after the law was enacted, I feel it's important to remember everyone who were involved in the signing of the law. Because I grew up with the ADA, I didn't have to fight to receive accommodations when I went to college or when I started working. I also didn't have to fight to be protected from discrimination due to my disability. I was able to succeed at college and get a job at the Governor's Commission on Disability of New Hampshire as the assistant for the New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council.

I collaborate with the GCD to research how the ADA and other laws may apply to different things such as social media, service animals, homeless and emergency shelters, vacation rentals, and the use of wheelchairs and other mobility equipment on sidewalks. I have also worked with others on creating a service animal decal that uses the ADA definition of a service animal. This decal was made as a result of HB 389 that businesses can use. This decal mentions that service animals are welcome, misrepresenting a pet as a service animal is illegal and could result in a fine of \$1,200, and that emotional support animals aren't considered service animals under the ADA.

I would like to thank everyone that was involved with the signing of the ADA and everyone that continues to use the ADA to advocate for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in our communities. Happy 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

End of document. July 2020. *Jennifer Beaulieu is an administrative staff member of the Statewide Independent Living Council and she works with the GCD.*