

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION  
BY THE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, 2021 marks the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that protects the rights of people with disabilities in employment, government services and public accommodations allowing them to work and enjoy the benefits of living independently in their communities;

WHEREAS, we recognize the skills, reliability and productivity that Kansans with disabilities bring to our workforce; and

WHEREAS, work is an essential component of being self-reliant, having greater self-esteem, living healthier lifestyles and being fully included in Kansas communities; and;

WHEREAS, approximately 19% of individuals with disabilities are participating in the workforce and the unemployment rate was 7.3% in 2020; and,

WHEREAS, hiring people with disabilities is productive for Kansas economy. People with disabilities who are employed earn millions of dollars in annual income, which is then spent in local communities on housing, groceries, and other products or services. They also pay significant state, federal and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, welcoming the talents people with disabilities in the workplace is a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and strong economy; and

WHEREAS, the State of Kansas adopted and implemented the Employment First policy, supports the efforts of Business Leadership Networks in Kansas City and Sedgwick County, provides support to working people with disabilities through the WORK and Working Healthy programs, uses several programs to help people with disabilities find jobs, created the Special Employment Supports Coordinator position to coordinate employment programs for people with disabilities across agencies, and supporting telework for state employees as well as private sector employees that help those with disabilities continue to work at home; and

WHEREAS, all Kansans have a role to play in – and benefits to gain from- increasing opportunities for competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2021 as

Kansas Disability Employment Awareness Month

in the state of Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka  
under the Great Seal of  
the State this 1<sup>st</sup> day of  
October, A.D. 2021

BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Laura Kelly*

*[Signature]*  
Secretary of State

*[Signature]*  
Assistant Secretary of State