



July 17, 2021

To the staff, clients and supporters of the disAbility Resource Center:

I am writing to celebrate the 31st anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act and to recognize the work of the disAbility Resource Center (dRC).

The dRC says independent living is “having the right and the opportunity to pursue a course of action.” This is the ideal that the ADA worked to achieve when it was signed into law.

Today, we celebrate all of the ways this legislation transformed our country by improving access and growing opportunity. Its regulations and aspirations have had a profound impact on the path towards fully inclusive workforces and communities, helping people with disabilities to lead self-sufficient lives.

I commend the disAbility Resource Center for their work to ensure individuals with disabilities in New Hanover, Brunswick, Columbus, Pender and Onslow Counties have the resources they need to find and fulfill these opportunities. They support important initiatives in the lives of people with disabilities and contribute to building a better, more inclusive society.

People with disabilities are valued members of our schools, workplaces, houses of worship and communities. They have strengths and value to contribute in everything they do. As we move into the next 31 years of the ADA, we must extend beyond the regulation of the law to foster cultural change, so that we fully realize the promise of inclusive communities.

Thank you for all you do for your community and the state.

Sincerely,

Senator Jeff Jackson