July 24, 2020

Dear Friends:

As we celebrate one of the seminal moments in our nation’s Civil Rights history, the 30th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act, I want to take a moment to thank everyone, past and present, who worked so hard to make this groundbreaking federal law happen, and who continue to do the good work to ensure its aims are adhered to.

The ADA is not just a law, it is the foundation that ensures those with Disabilities are afforded the same rights, liberties and access to opportunity that all Americans deserve.

I want to take a moment to thank and recognize the staff of the City of Los Angeles’ Department on Disabilities (DOD) for their stellar work in providing resources and assistance, and more importantly, for offering hope and opportunity to the good people they serve. DOD is made up of incredible and passionate people doing incredible and passionate work. As a City, we are extremely fortunate to have them serve Angelenos throughout the City.

I also want to thank all the participants in the Amplifying our Voice – The Future of Disability Rights and Inclusion, virtual discussion. While much has improved in the last 30 years, here in the City of Los Angeles, more work is needed to incorporate Youth with Disabilities into the activism that is continuously needed to uplift our community, and ensuring as we become a Smart City, we include the needs of Angelenos with Disabilities in that transition. And here in the Entertainment Capital of the World, Hollywood must include People with Disabilities in the important conversation on fair and accurate representation in the film and television industry, along with People of Color and the LBGTQIA+ community.

Again, thank you all for your voice, work and activism. Let us remind others that the Americans With Disabilities Act is a living and dynamic legislation – one that needs constant care and attention – today, tomorrow and decades from now.

Sincerely,

Los Angeles City Council President
Nury Martinez
Councilwoman, 6th District