



Missouri Proclamation of Equal Rights for People with Disabilities, *Abbreviated Version**

PREAMBLE

We declare that regardless of ability, all persons are whole human beings and should have opportunities to grow and develop to their full potential. The level of a person's intelligence, mobility, sight, hearing, communication or expression, and need for support does not confirm or negate their status as a whole human being. Thus, the human and civil rights of people of all abilities must be honored, protected, communicated, and enforced so that all have freedom and power to direct their own lives with determination and dignity through the exercise of meaningful choice.

Section I: WE BELIEVE and AFFIRM that all human beings, regardless of ability, have the basic right to live free from abuse, neglect, isolation, and exploitation in their homes, jobs, schools and communities.

Section II: WE BELIEVE and AFFIRM that all people, regardless of ability, have the right to live free from oppressive policies, procedures, and practices.

Section III: WE BELIEVE and AFFIRM that all people, regardless of ability, have the freedom to lead meaningful lives.

When all of the above are recognized, honored, and practiced, then we as a society will:

- Presume competence and uphold high expectations for all people.
- Promote the health and well-being of all people.
- Support people to fully, meaningfully, and productively participate in civic, cultural, political, economic, and social life, regardless of communication style, mobility, race, nation of origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, intelligence, accommodations, strengths, independence, support needs, and ability.
- Support and never abandon those who struggle and seek assistance, no matter how difficult.
- Promote respect for each other, even when it is challenging.

***This is a summary of the full length version of the Proclamation. To read the complete Proclamation and register as a supporter, please visit:**

<https://ihd.umkc.edu/mo-proclamation-equal-rights>