



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

JON TESTER
MONTANA

Dear Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow Montana,

Hello and thank you for inviting me to the 33rd anniversary celebration of the Americans with Disability Act.

I want to start by thanking LIFTT Executive Director Carlos Ramalho and all the folks here and in our community who work hard to support Montanans living with disabilities.

The passage of the ADA was a historic milestone for this country when it codified rights for those living with disabilities. These rights are fundamental, but it's the ADA that made them the law of the land. And it's thanks to the hard work of folks like you that these rights aren't just on paper, but they're applied and protected all across Big Sky country.

I'm proud to have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to write and pass bipartisan policy that continues to support disabled folks in Montana. Our *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* provided significant funding for ADA improvements, including securing critical funding for upgrades at Yellowstone Airport and Missoula Airport, where they're already getting started on constructing ADA-compliant terminals.

We scored another win last year, when the passage of the *PACT Act* ensured that disabled veterans who were exposed to toxic chemicals during combat will finally get the care and benefits they deserve.

And you folks know better than anyone that the work isn't over. It's critical that we keep up the fight to build a more inclusive workforce, community, and society. And no disability should keep Montanans from being afforded the resources and care needed to thrive right here at home. You have my word that I will continue to fight hard to ensure the Treasure State feels like home for every Montana resident.

Keep up the good work, and know that my door is always open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Tester".

U.S. Senator Jon Tester