



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2010

Chairman Henry Waxman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Joe Barton
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Barton:

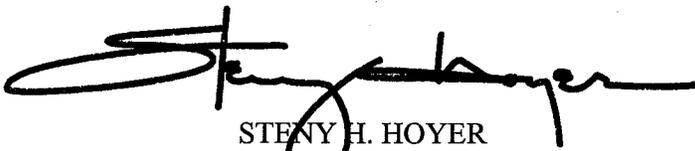
This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Today, on a day when members of the disability rights community join us to begin a year-long celebration of this landmark law, we write to ask for your help. To continue the important work of ensuring the best quality of life for people with disabilities, we ask that you conduct an oversight hearing on issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act under your committee's jurisdiction.

Without the ADA, more than 50 million Americans would still face enormous barriers to full participation in society. On a bipartisan basis, we enacted—and later strengthened—a law which guarantees the right of all Americans with disabilities to be able to live a life free of discrimination, a life in which a disability would not limit one's ability to participate fully in his or her community. Part of our work in living up to America's promise of equality is creating a country where all Americans with disabilities can live up to their full potential—where they can work at jobs that match their talents, live independently, and use the public accommodations that so many of us take for granted.

While we celebrate the progress made possible by the ADA, we also recognize that the progress is not yet complete. For one, Americans with disabilities continue to experience higher rates of poverty and unemployment. And as we embrace new forms of technology that range from touch-screens to Internet-broadcast television, we must remember that the challenge of accessibility continues to evolve from year to year.

The work for equality for Americans with disabilities must continue. With your leadership, we can better understand the steps that must be taken to ensure opportunity for all. Together, we can carry forward the important legacy of the ADA.

Sincerely,


STENY H. HOYER


CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS