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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA Celebrated with Questions for SC Gubernatorial Candidates**

**Columbia, SC** (July 25) – 28 years ago, on July 26, 1990, millions of Americans with disabilities celebrated the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), in a way—their own Emancipation Proclamation.

Signed into law by President George H.W. Bush, the ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities, similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion.

“The ADA is the most significant piece of civil rights legislation for people with disabilities—it is our independence,” Says Kimberly Tissot, executive director at Able South Carolina. “While the ADA has made great improvements in the lives of people with disabilities, I can’t help but pause to bring awareness to the ways we’re still being discriminated against and being excluded from opportunities such as employment.”

In the United States, it is legal to pay employees with disabilities significantly less than the minimum wage, even though they’re performing the same jobs as employees without disabilities. In fact, the number of people with disabilities in SC being paid sub-minimum wage is increasing. “We must do better to ensure that all citizens, including citizens with disabilities, have equal opportunities,” says Tissot.

As we celebrate the 28th anniversary of the ADA, we’re bringing attention to the important work that has been done and highlighting the work that is yet to be done by proposing disability-policy related questions to the SC Gubernatorial Candidates. Answers to questions will be released on September 1 to kick off National Voter Registration Month.

For 28 years, the ADA has prohibited discrimination against individuals with disabilities and has been the driving force of disability equality. Through outreach, training, and technical assistance people with disabilities have better access to businesses, buildings, employment, state and local government programs and services, and increasing opportunities for equal and full participation in civic and community life.

**ABOUT ABLE SOUTH CAROLINA**

Able SC is a change agent committed to fostering an inclusive society that empowers individuals with disabilities to live fully-engaged and self-directed lives. Able SC challenges stereotypes, protects disability rights, and champions social reform. To learn more about Able SC's programs and services, please visit [www.able-sc.org](http://www.able-sc.org).

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