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Who: Access Mob Pittsburgh

What: Disability March & Rally in Celebration of the 27th Anniversary of the ADA

Where: Downtown Pittsburgh, Liberty Avenue between Commonwealth Pl. and Stanwix St.

When: Wednesday, July 26, 2017, from 12:00 noon - 3:00 PM

July 26 Downtown Rally to Mark Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

PITTSBURGH, PA - July 1, 2017 - Hundreds of people with disabilities and their allies are expected to attend a downtown rally to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The rally is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26, 2017, from Noon to 3:00PM. The rally location is Liberty Avenue between Commonwealth Place and Stanwix Street.

Speakers include Dr. Josie Badger, Rev. Sally Jo Snyder, Milt Henderson, Mary Anderson Hartley, and other local disability activists in the fields of employment, healthcare, community organizing, and more.

Keynote speaker PA Rep. Dan Miller was elected to the House of Representatives in 2013 and currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Sub-Committee on Special Education, and as a member of the Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness, Human Services, and Children & Youth committees. Dan also works as Co-Chair of the Autism and Intellectual Disabilities Caucus, and on the At-Risk Children, Government Reform, Early Childhood Education, LGBT Equality, Steel, and Fire/EMS caucuses.

The rally will include a half-mile solidarity march. For those who wish to take part without marching, there will be seating and activities at a main stage, including all-ages adaptive games from local playground integrators *Find Some Flow*.

Spearheading the rally is Access Mob Pittsburgh, a grassroots organization that works to improve the accessibility of the City of Pittsburgh using positive means such as economic incentives, education, and direct advocacy.

Passed in 1990 and signed by President George H.W. Bush, this landmark legislation ensured that people with disabilities have the right to participate in all aspects of community life. It mandates a wide range of accommodations such as sidewalk curb ramps, bus ramps, braille on elevator buttons, and TTY phone services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

"Disability affects everyone," said Alisa Grishman, founder of Access Mob Pittsburgh. ***"The longer you live, the more likely it is that you or someone you love will become disabled. By making improvements for better accessibility, you're not just fixing the world for me, you're getting it ready for when you need it."***

"We need to celebrate how far we have come, and to energize ourselves as to how far we still need to go," said Richard Meritzer, the ADA Coordinator for the City of Pittsburgh, and a member of the planning team for the rally.

Other Pittsburgh activists added the following about the importance of the ADA anniversary rally:

Jess Benham, Director of Public Policy for the Pittsburgh Center for Autistic Advocacy: ***"In a time when our rights and freedoms as people with disabilities are under attack, a disability pride march brings us together to remember the past and look to the future."***

For more information and a schedule of events, visit the rally website at <https://pghadarally.com/>