

Proclamation



EMPLOYMENT FIRST 10th ANNIVERSARY

October 21, 2022

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia became an Employment First state in 2012; and

WHEREAS, as an Employment First state, the District believes that employment in the general workforce should be the first and preferred option for all residents of working age, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and veterans with service-related disabilities; and

WHEREAS, working in the general workforce means working side by side with people without disabilities, earning competitive wages and benefits, paying taxes, and being part of the economic mainstream of society; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are largely an untapped resource with skills that can help meet the needs of area businesses and employers, and providing opportunities for self-sufficiency is beneficial to everyone; and

WHEREAS, Washington, DC and the DC Developmental Disabilities Council join at least 21 Employment First states across the nation to affirm that integrated employment in the community is an important part of the lives of all working age adults, including people with disabilities and youth transitioning from school services:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim October 21, 2022, as the 10th ANNIVERSARY of making EMPLOYMENT FIRST a priority in Washington, DC.

