

Making Everyday Life Accessible Through the ADA

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Paper

Paper: 2,470 Words

Process Paper: 450 Words

Process Paper

I chose the topic over the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) because I used to be in Speech and Debate and did my speech as a girl with cerebral palsy. I went through the whole speech as a girl who struggled with all the different parts of having a disability. She was non-verbal and then she got the opportunity to get a machine that she could use to talk. It changed her life in many good ways. In the process, I felt that I had gone through a small part of her situation. I enjoyed doing that speech, and when I got the chance to dig deeper into the disabled community I jumped right on board with that idea. The ADA was significant because it affected so many Americans.

I got all my information from various websites and videos. I found a very informative article that Mary Ellen Heiner wrote herself. It was a good find because it was exactly her words about her story. I was able to find quite a few articles about people's personal experiences but very few were written by the person who struggled with the discrimination of being disabled was the person writing the story. Another very helpful website was the ada.gov. It is a government website, so I knew that it was reliable and would give me some good direction on where to go. It raised questions for me to dive deeper into, but it also included a few solid statistics. They added a lot to my paper by putting into perspective how many people were affected by the ADA itself.

I had difficulty finding how businesses were impacted by the ADA. There were lots of sources with basic knowledge but I could not find many that went deeper into the situation. Despite this I found a couple that were helpful. Finding quotes about the ADA from credible people was a problem that I faced early on. I found some good quotes, but only from people who I could not learn more about. Nor could I discover what they did to improve the ADA law.

The ADA is all about rights and responsibilities because it is a law that has given many people with disabilities the right to live their lives like others in America. The responsibility of ensuring America's disabled rights was not being protected, so the government had to step in. That is when the ADA became an issue and then an actual law in 1990. The ADA positively affected many disabled Americans, their families, and ultimately everyone else who lives in America. The passing of this law was a major turning point in the history of the United States of America.

Making Everyday Life Accessible Through the ADA

“The ADA is the living testament to our Nation’s commitment that we will always stand up for our neighbors’ right to live fulfilling lives.”¹

-Tammy Duckworth, Illinois Democratic Senator

Disabled Americans experienced limited access to everyday activities for years. In 1990, millions of Americans with disabilities were able to exercise their rights to participate in all aspects of American life.² This occurred when President George W. Bush signed a bipartisan bill,³ the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), into law.⁴ His signature ensured the government would provide equal access for the 43 million Americans who had been denied opportunities and access to everyday activities. This law would become a milestone, guaranteeing equal rights, including equal access and opportunity for the disabled, which would strike a balance of strong protection for Americans with disabilities without imposing unnecessary responsibilities on businesses.

What the Americans with Disabilities Act Was

Disability is defined as

“ 1. He or she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of his/her major life activities;

¹ Tammy Duckworth, “The ADA at 25: A Commitment to Our Neighbors,” *Huffpost*, January 20, 2025, https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-ada-at-25-a-commitmen_b_7905380

² “ADA at the Dole Archives,” *Commemorate ADA*, December 10, 2024, <https://dolearchivecollections.ku.edu/collections/ada/>

³ “Remarks of President George H. W. Bush at the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act,” *Archive.ADAgov*, January 9, 2025, https://archive.ada.gov/ghw_bush_ada_remarks.html

⁴ Donna Scanlon, “Americans with Disabilities Act 20th Anniversary | Inside Adams,” *Library of Congress Blogs*, November 13, 2024, https://blogs.loc.gov/inside_adams/2010/07/americans-with-disability-act-20th-anniversa

2. He or she has a record of such an impairment; or
3. He or she is regarded as having such an impairment.”⁵

The overall purpose of the ADA is to make America’s society more accessible to people with disabilities. The ADA is divided into five different titles/sections. “The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in several areas, including employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications and access to state and local government programs and services.” According to the U.S Department of Labor website,⁶ the ADA protects the rights of employers and employees.

In Title I, employers need to provide reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities who are applying for jobs or are already employed. It prohibits discrimination of all with disabilities in every way, shape, or form. Some ways employers can accommodate those with disabilities are by making the workplace accessible, providing interpreters, modifying equipment, and much more. This title also keeps medical inquiries and examinations in check. According to Title II, public services cannot refuse their services, programs, and activities to people with disabilities. This includes public transportation systems. Title III may be the most impactful part of the ADA for people with disabilities because it requires public places to provide accommodations and accessibility to the parts of everyday activities that some have not been able to participate in. It requires all new modifications and construction to be accessible to Americans with disabilities. For example ramps, handicap parking spots, elevators and more. Some of the facilities included in Title III are hotels, retail stores, restaurants, grocery stores, and other private transportation. Facilities that have buildings or modifications that are not in line

⁵ “The Americans with Disabilities Act: A Brief Overview,” *Job Accommodation Network*, January 20, 2025, https://askjan.org/articles/The-Americans-with-Disabilities-Act-A-Brief-Overview.cfm?cssearch=1946925_1

⁶ “Americans with Disabilities Act,” *U.S. Department of Labor*, January 20, 2025, <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/disability/ada>

with the ADA have to be removed or modified promptly. In Title IV and V, all communication services to the public have to have built-in systems that provide service to people who need accommodations like those who are deaf or visually impaired. It also states that anything that prohibits people with disabilities or those helping individuals with disabilities is under the ADA.

America Before the Americans with Disabilities Act Was Signed Into Law

In 1965, two-year-old Mary Ellen Heiner was in a farming accident,⁷ which left her paralyzed from the waist down. She had to wear leg braces and use crutches for much of her life. As she prepared to begin school in 1967, her family quickly realized that there were no school buses to accommodate her needs. Her family had to physically lift her onto the bus. This was a major inconvenience for her and her family. It was also inconvenient for the bus driver because she would have to be lifted off the bus by him when they arrived at school. As she got older, Heiner got to a point where she could get on and off by herself but with great difficulty.

Transportation to and from school was not the only obstacle Heiner faced. When it was recess time she was lonely because no playground equipment was accessible for her to play on. She had to adjust once again so she could play. She learned how to swing, go up the stairs, and then down the slides. The teachers treated her differently. When she was going up the stairs or trying to go down the slides her teachers would quickly call Mary's mom and frantically explain the situation. Her mom would not treat her any differently in situations. She just raised her daughter as a 'normal' daughter who did not have a disability because she knew no differently. Her mom would tell the teachers to let her do her thing and if she falls, she falls but will be able to pick herself back up.

⁷ Mary Ellen Heiner, "Life Before And After The ADA | CPD Blog," *IDRPP*, November 13, 2024, <https://idrpp.usu.edu/blog/2020/life-before-and-after-the-ada>

The problems did not end when Heiner left elementary school. This was an ongoing problem that Mary had to live with. When she was in high school there were more obstacles for her to work around. The doors were one of her biggest obstacles to tackle because they were not automatic. The stairs were also a problem because people pushing and shoving would slow her down. She learned how to open the doors and go up and down the stairs but it still took her much longer than the other students. She had to make special arrangements with her school and teachers. She was allowed to leave each class 10 minutes early to get a 'head start' on getting to the next classroom. The stairs became such a big challenge for her that she would sometimes miss the bus and have to find a ride home.

College was also a struggle for "the girl with crutches" as there was only one building on campus that had an elevator in it. The college, however, did not keep up with the maintenance of it, so it was almost always out of order. After college, she was offered a job on the second floor of a building with no elevator. The stairs were outside and she could get up on days with good weather, but if it was the slightest bit wet, it would be very slippery and dangerous for her. She turned down the job offer for safety reasons. Mary Heiner's life before the ADA was hard and limited her options for jobs, entertainment, and living spaces.

Why the ADA Started

Although the ADA was not a law, it was becoming part of the public conversation because people were suffering and most businesses and employers were not doing anything to address the inequalities. It was not the government's responsibility at the time, but when no change was being made for the disabled, the government realized it was their time to take a

stand.⁸ People started speaking up and politicians became aware of the injustice before them. Republican Senator Bob Dole, whose right arm was paralyzed and left arm had lost all feeling,⁹ spoke on behalf of disabled Americans on the floor of the US Senate on April 14, 1969. His speech was special to him because it was 24 years after Dole was wounded in WWII (when he lost feeling in his left arm and his right arm was paralyzed), but also because of his commitment to improving the lives of Americans with disabilities.¹⁰ “We have a basic commitment in our nation to assure every person has adequate opportunity to develop to his fullest capacity . . . we have only begun to help guarantee that each handicapped person and his family enjoy complete dignity, independence, and security.” - Senator Bob Dole’s speech on the Senate floor on April 14, 1969.¹¹

Republican Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa was one of the leading sponsors of the ADA bill.¹² The bill had his full support because he had a personal experience while growing up in a hard-working and close-knit family with a disabled family member; his brother Frank was deaf. Because of Frank, he understood how inequality affected others poorly. Senator Harkin delivered the first floor speech in American Sign Language.¹³ Harkin played a vital role in changing and tweaking the ADA so that businesses would not have to suffer like the people who suffered before the ADA was a law. Businesses could have suffered dramatically due to the cost of

⁸ “Remarks of President George H. W. Bush at the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act,” *Archive.ADA.gov*, January 9, 2025, https://archive.ada.gov/ghw_bush_ada_remarks.html

⁹ “Kessler Foundation Remembers Bob Dole: Enduring Advocate for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” *Kessler Foundation*, February 4, 2025 <https://kesslerfoundation.org/blog/kessler-foundation-remembers-bob-dole-enduring-advocate-rights-persons-disabilities#:~:text=As%20an%20injured%20World%20War,%2C%20not%20just%20your%20attitude.%22>

¹⁰ “ADA at the Dole Archives,” *Commemorate ADA*, December 10, 2024, <https://dolearchivecollections.ku.edu/collections/ada/>

¹¹ “ADA at the Dole Archives,” *Commemorate ADA*, December 10, 2024, <https://dolearchivecollections.ku.edu/collections/ada/>

¹² Nils Skudra “Tom Harkin: Senate Champion of the ADA”, *Disability in North Carolina*, January 19, 2025, <https://di-nc.org/tom-harkin-senate-champion-of-the-ada/>

¹³ Tom Harkin, “Senator Harkin Delivers Floor Speech in American Sign Language Upon Passage of the ADA”, *YouTube*, January 20, 2025 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BomPo6fPOOo>

building renovations. His dedication to the ADA gave him a high honor in history as a champion of the ADA and an advocate for equality for all Americans.¹⁴

Democratic Senator Tammy Duckworth is a Blackhawk helicopter pilot who served in 2004 in ‘Operation Iraqi Freedom.’ Eight months into her deployment there was a rocket-propelled grenade that went through the Blackhawk helicopter she was flying. The result of this was both legs were ripped off and her right arm was torn off. She supports the ADA fully because of the results of the attack. She said “Simply put, the ADA enables me and millions of other Americans to move forward with our lives.”¹⁵

The ADA Becomes Law

George H. W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. He knew that this was the time that the government needed to take responsibility for what they should have done a long time ago. In July 1990, he spoke on how this was an independence day for those with disabilities.¹⁶ He said “Our success with this act proves that we are keeping faith with the spirit of our courageous forefathers who wrote in the Declaration of Independence: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.’ These words have been our guide for more than two centuries as we have labored to form our more perfect union.” He continued and expressed remorse for the millions of Americans who had been denied or limited liberty. He also mentioned to businesses that there are many Americans who are unemployed and they are wanting jobs.

President Bush said, “They want to work, and they can work, and this is a tremendous pool of

¹⁴ Nils Skudra “Tom Harkin: Senate Champion of the ADA”, *Disability in North Carolina*, January 19, 2025, <https://di-nc.org/tom-harkin-senate-champion-of-the-ada>

¹⁵ “The ADA at 25: A Commitment to Our Neighbors.” 2015. HuffPost. July 30, 2015. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-ada-at-25-a-commitmen_b_7905380.

¹⁶ “Remarks of President George H. W. Bush at the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act,” *Archive.ADAgov*, January 9, 2025, https://archive.ada.gov/ghw_bush_ada_remarks.html

people.” He emphasized that people who have not been able to get jobs because of their disabilities want the chance that every other American gets to prove themselves. He ended his speech with “I now lift my pen to sign this Americans with Disabilities Act and say: Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down. God bless you all.” He kept God in the center and wanted this law to remove barriers for those who have had to deal with being denied their rights. He wanted them to grasp the freedom that America has to offer.¹⁷

How Businesses Were Affected by the ADA

Businesses were greatly affected by the ADA. The ADA’s purpose was to ensure that people with disabilities can participate fully in all aspects of their daily lives. Businesses would have to ensure that anyone with any disability can access what the business offers like the goods or services it has to offer. Almost all businesses big, small, non-profit, profit, old or new had to follow the ADA. Some examples of buildings that have to follow the ADA are: shops, hotels, restaurants, movie theaters, private schools, college dorms, doctor’s offices, daycare centers, hotel and airport shuttles, gyms, etc.¹⁸ The ADA does not apply to religious organizations (even if they are open to the public,) private clubs (not open to the public,) and historic buildings.¹⁹ Historic buildings are not entirely exempt but are more flexible with the ADA. Businesses have to provide people with and without disabilities the same opportunities for the services or goods that are offered. They also have to be able to communicate with all people effectively and make modifications for disabled Americans. Testing and ticket sale accommodations are also necessary.

¹⁷ “Remarks of President George H. W. Bush at the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act,” *Archive.ADA.gov*, January 9, 2025, https://archive.ada.gov/ghw_bush_ada_remarks.html

¹⁸ “Businesses That Are Open to the Public,” *ADA.gov*, November 12, 2025, <https://www.ada.gov/topics/title-iii/>

¹⁹ Jeff Curtis, “Who is Exempt from ADA Compliance?” *AudioEye*, December 10, 2024, <https://www.audioeye.com/post/who-is-exempt-from-ada-compliance/>

Even websites are affected by the ADA. The ADA prohibits discrimination online.²⁰ The color contrast in a website is important with the foreground and the background. “Low color contrast can make text unreadable for people with low vision, color vision deficiencies, and other vision impairments,” according to AudioEye. Eighty-one percent of the top 1 million websites' homepages have low color contrast text. This can make the text very hard to read or unreadable to people who have vision difficulties/disabilities.²¹ All of this meant that businesses did not only have to change their storefront but also their websites. Most businesses do have websites so the ADA forced them to make lots of changes.

How the ADA Affected Americans

The ADA affected many Americans with and without disabilities. Helena, who was a college student, deeply wanted her grandmother to attend and understand her graduation service. Her grandmother was deaf and only communicated with Spanish Sign Language. Helena was told that it was not necessary for the graduation, but she did not give up there. She got connected with people who told her that it was her right to have a Spanish Sign Language interpreter there so her grandma could enjoy the service like everyone else. They were forced to find a Spanish Sign Language interpreter who was able to attend the graduation, which meant her grandmother got the opportunity to experience the service just like the others there because of the ADA. It was a sweet moment for her and her grandmother that they will never forget.²² Helena’s story would not have happened without the ADA.

²⁰ Jeff Curtis, “Who is Exempt from ADA Compliance?” *AudioEye*, December 10, 2024, <https://www.audioeye.com/post/who-is-exempt-from-ada-compliance/>

²¹ “The WebAIM Mission - The 2024 report on the accessibility of the top 1000000 home pages,” *WebAIM*, January 20, 2025, <https://webaim.org/projects/million/#contrast>

²² “Short Success Stories | ADA National Network.” *Adata.org*, December 11, 2024, <adata.org/short-success-stories#Teacher%20with%20Disability%20is%20Granted%20a%20Reasonable%20Accommodation%20in%20High%20Temperatures>

Mary Ellen Heiner was affected not only before the ADA became a law but also after the ADA became a law. She realized many things were happening around her campus and town that was going to make her life significantly easier. She saw doorways getting expanded with automatic door openers, elevators being built in all the new buildings and some old buildings were making renovations to add elevators. She also saw ramps built allowing buildings/businesses to be more accessible to those with disabilities. New apartments were built with accessible units that could be accessed without the challenge of stairs. In theaters, wheelchair-accessible seats were now available. This was a helpful change for Heiner because she started using a wheelchair permanently and was not able to watch movies without feeling like she was blocking the way and aisle. The ADA affected her life tremendously in many ways. She will forever be grateful for the ADA.

“According to the U.S. Census in their report *Americans with Disabilities: 2005*, there are roughly 54 million Americans with a disability. 11 million people age 6 and older need personal assistance with everyday activities and 46% of the people ages 21 to 64 having some type of disability who were employed.”²³ These statistics state how many Americans have disabilities and were affected by the ADA. The people with disabilities were not the only people affected by the ADA. The families and business owners were also affected by the ADA. Over 54 million people have been helped by one law.

²³ Donna Scanlon, “Americans with Disabilities Act 20th Anniversary | Inside Adams,” *Library of Congress Blogs*, November 13, 2024, https://blogs.loc.gov/inside_adams/2010/07/americans-with-disability-act-20th-anniversa

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Administration for Community Living. 2020. "Interview with Justin Dart, Jr., ADA Visionary, Recorded October 20, 1999." YouTube. July 23, 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dbXTkcMjFI>.

This video is about how a congressman had the people use their voices and put their say in the ADA. They also had the people say if they wanted it or not and it was very clear that people wanted it. Real stories from Justin Dart are in this video, which makes it a first-hand account of how he says the ADA became a bill and then signed into law as he talked about all the work that went into making the ADA possible.

Heiner, Mary Ellen. 2020. "Life before and after the ADA | CPD Blog." Idrpp.usu.edu. July 27, 2020. <https://idrpp.usu.edu/blog/2020/life-before-and-after-the-ada>.

This source is all about a lady who was in a farming accident and was disabled from the waist down as a result. She talks about the struggles and benefits before the ADA and then after the ADA was signed into law. It gives me a real example of how the ADA was helpful to people.

Orrin. 2020. "Orrin G. Hatch Foundation." Orrin G. Hatch Foundation. July 26, 2020.

<https://orrinhatchfoundation.org/oped-posts/americanswithdisabilitiesactanniversary>.

This source is about a man who pushed the ADA on the Republican side because Senator Tom Harkin asked him to do so and he agreed while thinking of his brother-in-law every step of the way. This source helps me see the political side of the ADA while still having personal connections and that the ADA is a very

family-oriented law. I like this source because it leans heavily onto the political side which is harder to find and pushes people to do something now.

Picerno, Susan. 2022. "A True Story of Life before the ADA, in Memory of Everyone Who Fought for the Law." Independence Now. July 26, 2022.

<https://www.innow.org/2022/07/26/a-true-story-of-life-before-the-ada-in-memory-of-everyone-who-fought-for-the-law/>

This source is about a girl who has cerebral palsy and she talks about having a hard time finding a job and refers to another guy who has cerebral palsy and is only allowed to volunteer at places while not being able to get hired by those places. It gives me some good insight into what people had to do and go through before the ADA was passed. This woman's story is a good primary source I can use to make my point that there were not any modifications for the disabled community to do before the ADA.

"Remarks by President George H.W. Bush at the ADA Signing Ceremony." n.d.

Archive.ada.gov. https://archive.ada.gov/ghw_bush_ada_remarks.html.

This source is everything that President George W. Bush said at the signing of the ADA. This source gives me insight into what the signing day was like and that it did mean a lot to him and the people who were there. It adds character to the meaning of the ADA that people might not know how important this day was to those people there and to the generation I am in.

"Senator Harkin Delivers Floor Speech in American Sign Language upon Passage of the ADA."

n.d. Wwww.youtube.com. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BomPo6fPOOo>.

This source is a video of a senator giving a speech in ASL. This shows me that

there were family and personal connections with politicians who supported the ADA. This is an interesting aspect of the ADA that people may not know.

“The ADA at 25: A Commitment to Our Neighbors.” 2015. HuffPost. July 30, 2015.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-ada-at-25-a-commitmen_b_7905380.

This source is written by a veteran who is now a senator. She said some nice quotes in this source as well. I will be using this source so I can quote a politician and how they were personally affected by the ADA.

“WebAIM: The WebAIM Million - the 2024 Report on the Accessibility of the Top 1,000,000 Home Pages.” 2024. Webaim.org. March 28, 2024.

<https://webaim.org/projects/million/#contrast>.

This source is all about different tests and statistics that have been done regarding websites and how they affect people. This website helps me understand the importance of website color contrast. It was affected by the ADA.

Secondary Sources

“ADA at the Dole Archives.” n.d. Dolearchivecollections.ku.edu.

<https://dolearchivecollections.ku.edu/collections/ada/>.

This source is filled with good information, key people, and dates related to the ADA. It gives a timeline on the ADA how each person played their role and what each role was while still summarizing what the ADA is all about. It gives good and simple comparisons between life before and after the ADA for people who were affected by it.

“AudioEye.” 2024. AudioEye. 2024.

<https://www.audioeye.com/post/who-is-exempt-from-ada-compliance>.

This article is about the rules of who does and who does not need to comply with the ADA. There are also some good statistics in this article as well. This source helps me understand the criteria for complying with the ADA. It also talks about the lawsuits that have been made about the ADA.

“Businesses That Are Open to the Public.” 2023. ADA.gov. February 17, 2023.

<https://www.ada.gov/topics/title-iii/>.

This website shows me what businesses are expected to do and what they did not have to do before the ADA. Businesses are everywhere and are used to having a ‘normal’ everyday life. The ADA was created to help people with some sort of disability to have a life where their disability is not in the way of allowing them to do certain everyday life activities.

Felsing, Sam. 2023. “Stories about the ADA.” Community Living Campaign. July 31, 2023.

<https://sfcommunityliving.org/stories-about-the-ada>.

This source is about her experience with the people who advertised the ADA and made it all happen. She mentions an alliance that played a huge role in the ADA.

This source helps me understand all the work that was put into the ADA. It brings a new alliance up that I was not aware of but it did indeed help the ADA a lot.

Job Accommodation Network. 2012. “The Americans with Disabilities Act: A Brief Overview.”

Askjan.org. July 26, 2012.

https://askjan.org/articles/The-Americans-with-Disabilities-Act-A-Brief-Overview.cfm?csearch=1946925_1.

This source gives me a brief description of what the ADA included and

everything it covered. It gives me a good understanding of what the ADA is and how it affects American citizens.

“Kessler Foundation Remembers Bob Dole: Enduring Advocate for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” n.d. Kessler Foundation.

<https://kesslerfoundation.org/blog/kessler-foundation-remembers-bob-dole-enduring-advocate-rights-persons-disabilities#:~:text=As%20an%20injured%20World%20War,%2C%20not%20just%20your%20attitude.%22>.

This source gives me some more insight into what Bob Dole had as far as his disability. It gives a summary of what Bob Dole contributed to the ADA. It also gives a summary of what the ADA ended up being.

Scanlon, Donna. 2010. “Americans with Disabilities Act 20th Anniversary | inside Adams.” The Library of Congress. July 26, 2010.

https://blogs.loc.gov/inside_adams/2010/07/americans-with-disability-act-20th-anniversa.

This source is about personal stories and experiences with disabilities in our country. The source also gives some good solid statistics which helps me understand the ADA more in the way that it affects the country in some huge ways. The numbers really help to understand how many people the ADA affected.

“Short Success Stories | ADA National Network.” 2025. Adata.org. 2025.

<https://adata.org/short-success-stories#Teacher%20with%20Disability%20is%20Granted%20a%20Reasonable>.

This source is about many different people and their stories. This source gives real-life results of how the ADA has helped disabled people. It also proves that the ADA made a big difference in the community and it helps me build on the

topic of how the ADA has had benefits for real people and scenarios.

“Tom Harkin: Senate Champion of the ADA.” 2023. June 27, 2023.

<https://di-nc.org/tom-harkin-senate-champion-of-the-ada/>.

This article is all about Tom Harkin and his experiences with the ADA. He has personal relations with the ADA which made it more of a priority and special to him and his family. This source helps me show that the ADA was very family-oriented and had a very good heart behind it.

U.S. Department of Labor. 2024. “Americans with Disabilities Act.” Dol.gov. U.S. Department of Labor. 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/disability/ada>.

This is a government article that defines what the ADA is and what it does to Americans. It helps me understand fully what the ADA was and how it impacted others.