

The ADA passed because of disruption, featuring Lawrence Carter-Long

Lawrence Carter-Long is the director of communications at Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF). In this video interview, he shines a spotlight on how the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) came to be through the persistent work of disability activists.

Transcript begins.

[active piano and percussion music]

LAWRENCE CARTER-LONG: I'm Lawrence Carter-Long. I'm a middle-aged white man wearing blue—bleached-out, white-blondish hair; hands that never stop moving; and a smile that's sincere.

The draft legislation for the Americans with Disabilities Act was put together in the mid-'80s. And then, right, 1990, what did it take to pass that law? Disability being disruptive. Disabled people saying, "No, no, no. We're not going to be taken for granted, we're not going to be left behind, and we're going to show you how determined and how dedicated we are."

It's important to honor our history. It's important to celebrate those advances. They're few and far between. But we're not done yet. The time to be included, the time for this to change is now. And you can be a part of it. You should be a part of it.

VOICE-OVER: Where are you in your Journey to Inclusion? For more information, go to DisabilityPhilanthropy.org, and promote using the hashtag DisabilityInclusion. Brought to you by the Presidents' Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy.

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