WHEREAS in July 2015 people with disabilities and our supporters celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); AND

WHEREAS there are over 50 million people with disabilities of all ages living in communities throughout the United States; AND

WHEREAS the disability community has a critical interest in policies enacted at local, state and national levels that effect the integration of people with disabilities, young and old, into our communities; AND

WHEREAS getting the disability community involved in influencing public policies is essential if these policies are to meet the real needs of people with disabilities to live in the community; AND

WHEREAS voting is one way for the disability community to exert their influence at local, state and national elections; AND

WHEREAS there are multiple efforts to develop disability coalitions around the issue of voting; AND

WHEREAS REV UP America \* Register – Educate – Vote Use your Power is a national effort to encourage local and/or state disability community voting coalitions; AND

WHEREAS members of national disability rights community are organizing a national Disability Voter Registration Week (DVRW) July 11th – July 15th;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Grand Rapids supports the growing involvement of the disability community in the political process; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Grand Rapids designates the week of July 11th – 15th as National Disability Voter Registration Week.