

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, anyone can be affected by autism, regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, or geography; and children and adults with autism are our family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and students; and

WHEREAS, autism affects 1 in 31 children, including more than 400,000 individuals in Pennsylvania, with an estimated 73,000 children and adults receiving autism services in Pennsylvania, and more than 5.4 million people in total in the United States; and

WHEREAS, each individual with autism carries a unique diagnosis across the spectrum and has distinctive skills, characteristics, and qualities; and

WHEREAS, research shows that early intervention can improve a child's development and individualized support provided by trained professionals can lead to better outcomes for individuals and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, individuals with autism may benefit from specialized services and community support to ensure their health and safety and successful participation in community life; and

WHEREAS, people with autism, families, professionals, and community members are supported through connecting with others in a variety of settings and the sharing of resources, including through access to ASERT initiatives such as the Statewide Resource Center and #ASDNext; and

WHEREAS, the aim for Autism Acceptance Month is to recognize the diverse nature and abilities of people with autism and to encourage support through family, friends, professionals, and community that will allow a broader understanding and appreciation of those individuals.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim April 2026 to be

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

I encourage all Pennsylvanians to provide their support in furthering autism awareness and acceptance.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twentieth day of March two thousand twenty-six, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred fiftieth.

Governor Josh Shapiro

First Lady Lori Shapiro