

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



## PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, all Pennsylvanians should be offered the opportunity to live and work with dignity, freedom, and economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, workplaces that welcome the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and strong economy; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians with disabilities, including Pennsylvania's veterans with disabilities, have proven to be invaluable employees who contribute positively to the bottom line of companies for whom they work; and

WHEREAS, the Employment First Act, enacted into law in June 2018, reflects the Commonwealth's goal to make competitive, integrated employment the first consideration and preferred outcome for individuals with a disability; and

WHEREAS, the Employment First Act created the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities and the Employment First Oversight Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities is a collaboration of cabinet members and leaders across Pennsylvania which will review existing laws, regulations, policies, and procedures to recommend changes that ensure implementation of Employment First; and

WHEREAS, the Employment First Oversight Commission establishes measurable goals and objectives to guide agencies and report annual progress; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania encourages the promotion of disability employment through events that bring together employers, individuals with disabilities, advocates, service providers, and government officials to discuss employment issues and provide information about programs and services that will increase opportunities for Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 2023, as

### DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

to encourage all Pennsylvanians to provide their support in hiring and retaining workers with disabilities.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-first day of September two thousand twenty-three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-eighth.

Governor Josh Shapiro