



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH
APRIL 2023**

WHEREAS, autism can affect anyone regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status, or geography and children and adults with autism are our family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and

WHEREAS, autism affects 1 in 36 children 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 and qualities such as exceptional focus and attention to detail; and

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

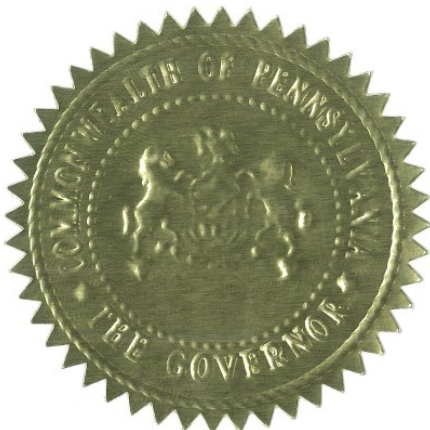
WHEREAS, there are more than 55,000 children and adults with autism who are receiving services in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, positive outcomes increase for individuals with autism when training is provided to professionals across all systems, including those in justice, healthcare, and emergency response settings; and

WHEREAS, people with autism, families, professionals, and community members are supported through connections with others 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 strong 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 2023 as 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, this twenty-fourth day of March two thousand twenty-three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-seventh.

A blue ink signature of Josh Shapiro, written in a cursive style.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor