



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Autism Acceptance Month began as Autism Awareness Month, but the autism community has since outgrown autism awareness and grown into autism acceptance; and
- WHEREAS: In Minnesota, 1 in 36 people have autism, and it is the fastest growing developmental disability in Minnesota. Autistic people make tremendous contributions to Minnesota in areas of art, technology, culture, economy, and every other aspect of our communities; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota affirms the values of equity and inclusion of autistic people as part of the vibrant and diverse make-up of Minnesota's communities. Minnesota recognizes the intersectional identities of people with autism and the rich and diverse community and culture that is built around their lived experiences; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota acknowledges the limits of asking for awareness and promotes and celebrates the acceptance and appreciation of people with autism as the next step beyond awareness. Minnesota acknowledges that although this celebration of autistic culture and community provides a starting point, that there remains significant room for progress towards equitable access and inclusion for all Minnesotans with autism; and
- WHEREAS: Because disability rights are human rights that should always move forward, autism awareness was a step toward autism acceptance that can grow further into autism appreciation. Minnesota must take a more active role in engaging people of all neurotypes, and creating a welcoming and accessible society for people with autism; and
- WHEREAS: Autism Acceptance Month is celebrated throughout the month of April in alignment with World Autism Day, which is recognized on April 2.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as:

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 28th day of March.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE