

WHEREAS; autism spectrum disorder is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood but often remains undiagnosed until later in life; and

WHEREAS; while every autistic individual experiences autism differently, many individuals with autism may be more sensitive to changes in routine, repeat certain behaviors, and interact with others, communicate, self-regulate, and learn in ways that are different from their non-autistic peers; and

WHEREAS; according to 2020 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism spectrum disorder impacts as many as one in 36 kids in the United States, as well as an estimated one in 36 eight year olds in Wisconsin and one in 44 four year olds in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; autism spectrum disorder affects a person throughout their entire life and early diagnosis is vital to ensuring that every kid and adult with autism spectrum disorder has the support and services they need; and

WHEREAS; a strong foundation of supports in childhood and throughout a person's life that are specific to their educational, medical, social, recreational, family, employment, and daily living needs is critical to ensuring folks with autism spectrum disorder can live their most independent and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins advocates, family members, caregivers, educators, and dedicated professionals and organizations across the state in inspiring inclusion and systemic changes to ensure autistic individuals are treated with dignity and respect and in celebrating the countless ways individuals with autism spectrum disorder enhance Wisconsin's communities and enrich the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 2024 as

## **AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH**

and April 2, 2024, as

## **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 22nd day of March 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State