

WHEREAS; autism spectrum disorder is a complex developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood, and approximately one in 31 kids in the United States lives with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS; although all those living with autism have been represented under the same broad diagnosis as defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, autism spectrum disorder ranges in severity, with some individuals experiencing more debilitating symptoms impacting their daily functionality; and

WHEREAS; a recent study found that of a group of 20,000 8-year-old kids on the autism spectrum, 26.7 percent would meet the criteria for profound autism, which is defined by having severe intellectual disabilities, reduced cognitive ability, and minimal or no verbal ability, requiring the supervision and support of a caregiver throughout their lifetime; and

WHEREAS; autism spectrum disorder affects a person throughout their entire life, impacting how individuals interact with others, communicate, self-regulate, and learn, and early diagnosis is vital to ensuring that every kid and adult with autism spectrum disorder has the support and services they need and deserve; and

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

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins individuals with autism spectrum disorder, advocates, family members, caregivers, educators, and dedicated professionals and organizations across the state in inspiring inclusion and systemic changes to ensure individuals with autism 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 2026 as

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

and April 2 2026 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 30th day of March 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State