

WHEREAS; Autism Spectrum Disorder is a complex developmental disorder that typically appears during early childhood, but often remains undiagnosed until later in life; and

WHEREAS; individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder experience a wide range of symptoms, and may interact with others, communicate, self-regulate, and learn in ways that are different from other individuals, repeat certain behaviors, and be more sensitive to changes in routine than their peers; and

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Autism Spectrum Disorder impacts as many as one in 54 children in the United States, and an estimated one in 60 children in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis can have far-reaching implications for a diagnosed individual and their family, and early diagnosis, research, professional training, education, and therapies are vital to ensuring that every child and adult has access to the full range of choices and opportunities available to live their most independent and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS; Autism Spectrum Disorder affects a person throughout their entire life, and their quality of life depends not only on the foundation provided in childhood, but also on ongoing support that is specific to their educational, medical, social, recreational, family, and employment needs; and

WHEREAS; for decades, advocates in Wisconsin and nationwide have celebrated April as Autism Awareness Month, however we recognize that the choice of our words matters and that, while awareness provides education and understanding, acceptance is what is needed to inspire inclusion and systems-wide changes to ensure individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder are treated with dignity and respect and are able participate fully in society; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins self-advocates, family members, caregivers, medical professionals, and dedicated organizations across our state in raising awareness, celebrating the numerous ways individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder enhance the quality of our communities and enrich our world, fostering acceptance, and working together to create a more welcoming and inclusive state for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 2021 as

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

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 31st day of March 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State