

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; while every autistic individual will experience autism differently, many individuals with autism will 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; and

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and based on data collected in 2018, autism spectrum disorder impacts as many as one in 44 children in the United States, and an estimated one in 53 children in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; early diagnosis is vital to ensuring that every child and adult with autism spectrum disorder has the support and services they need, along with the ability to access 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 the quality of life of autistic individuals depends not only on the foundation they are provided in childhood, but also on ongoing support that is specific to their educational, medical, social, recreational, family, employment, and daily living needs; and

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

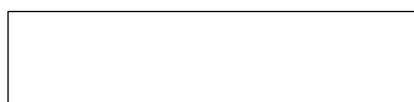
WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins self-advocates, family members, caregivers, educators, and dedicated professionals and organizations across our state in celebrating the numerous ways individuals with autism spectrum disorder enhance our communities and enrich our world, striving towards 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 2022 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 11th day of March 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State