

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 2018 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism spectrum disorder impacts as many as one in 44 kids in the United States and an estimated one in 53 kids in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; early diagnosis is vital to ensuring that every kid 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 their quality of life 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; 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

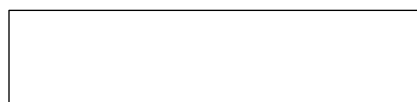
WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins self-advocates, family members, caregivers, educators, and dedicated professionals and organizations across the state in working towards acceptance and celebrating the countless ways individuals with autism spectrum disorder enhance Wisconsin's communities and enrich the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 2023 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 21st day of March 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State