



**STATE OF TEXAS**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Texas is stronger when people of all abilities are included in community life. Students with disabilities who are included in the classroom with their nondisabled peers have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. When people with disabilities are included in the general workforce, they have an opportunity to earn a competitive wage and to work as part of a team. People with disabilities who are included and active in their communities generally live longer, healthier lives and are more likely to give back to their communities. When inclusion happens, communities in Texas are stronger.

Sadly, these individuals are not always treated with the respect and dignity they deserve. People with developmental disabilities may face unique challenges, but they also have extraordinary strengths and the value inherent to all human life. Throughout our state's history, Texans with disabilities have demonstrated remarkable qualities of the Texas spirit: courage, independence and strength. They deserve every opportunity to live happy, productive lives in their communities.

Each year, March is designated to raise awareness of the integral role individuals with developmental disabilities play in our society and is dedicated to promoting inclusion. During this month, Texans can raise awareness about how classrooms, workplaces and communities are stronger when they include people of all abilities. I encourage all Texans to raise awareness about developmental disabilities and to support full inclusion and equality for these remarkable Texans.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim March 2018 to be

**Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas