



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Every Texan displays a unique set of perspectives and strengths, each woven into the tapestry of the Lone Star State, and this is especially true for the many Texans with autism. A lifelong neurological condition, autism is typically diagnosed in early childhood and can cause difficulty with communication and social interaction. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 54 children meet the criteria for an autism diagnosis, and this population is likely to grow as detection becomes more accurate. Although it is most commonly identified during childhood, autism impacts all ages and genders and can also be diagnosed in adults. While autism is more commonly found in males, we cannot overlook the many women and girls with autism who are significantly under-diagnosed, meaning they may miss out on necessary support and guidance.

While there is no single known cause of autism, early diagnosis and intervention, along with various therapy programs, can help people with autism lead successful lives. These individuals have the same hopes and desires as all Texans: to be a self-determined member of their community, to work and earn a living, and to pursue their own American dream. Throughout our state's history, individuals with autism have shared their unique abilities and experiences to make immense contributions to Texas' rich diversity and ensure the success of our thriving economy. Texas will remain a stronger, more successful place when people with autism are included in community life.

Each year, the month of April is dedicated to educating the public about autism, highlighting the need for early diagnosis and intervention, encouraging continued research, and emphasizing the important contributions of our fellow Texans with autism. By continuing to support individuals with autism and ensuring they have access to reliable services, we will ensure a better and brighter future in the Lone Star State for generations to come.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the unique perspectives of individuals with autism and the families and health care workers who support them and to recognize the many ways Texans with autism make important contributions to our society.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2022 to be

Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
25th day of February, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Greg Abbott".

Governor of Texas