



## GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

Many individuals with autism call Texas home, and each of these individuals brings a unique set of perspectives and strengths to the fabric of the Lone Star State. A lifelong neurological condition that can often cause difficulty with communication and social interaction, autism is typically diagnosed in early childhood. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 54 children meet the criteria for an autism diagnosis, and this population is likely to grow as diagnoses become more accurate. While early detection is vital, it is important to note that autism impacts all ages and genders and can be diagnosed in adults as well as in children. While autism is more commonly found in males, we cannot overlook the many women and girls with autism who are significantly under-identified, meaning they may miss out on necessary support and guidance.

While there is no single known cause of autism, an early diagnosis, early intervention, and various therapy programs can help people with autism lead successful lives. These individuals have the same hopes and desires as all Texans: to be self-determined and pursue their own American dream, work and earn a living, practice their faith, and be included in their community. Throughout our state's history, individuals with autism have utilized 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 the future success of the Lone Star State for generations to come.

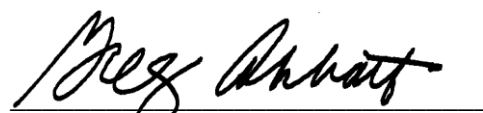
At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the unique perspectives of individuals with autism and the families and health care workers who support them, and to recognize the many ways Texans with autism make important contributions to our society.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2021 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  
1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2021.

  
Governor of Texas