



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Without exception, each person is both blessed with unique ability and burdened with unique adversity. We know, moreover, that all human beings are endowed with irrevocable worth and dignity, and they deserve the opportunity to pursue their loftiest ambitions. This ennobling vision underpins much of Western thought, and it is epitomized by patients with autism spectrum disorder, as well as their loved ones and care providers.

An enduring neurological condition, autism spectrum disorder is marked by a wide array of cognitive, social, communicative, and behavioral indicators. As the name denotes, a disorder on the autism spectrum manifests itself differently in each patient, and symptoms range from subtle idiosyncrasies to significant functional impairment. Among patients with autism, ordinary activities may carry an extraordinary degree of difficulty. The condition, though, is far from rare, and practically every American personally knows someone with autism.

In Texas, we know that it is not our challenges that define us, but rather how we rise above them. To this end, there are many treatment options and support systems that enable people with autism to lead the fullest, most productive lives possible. Although definitive causes and cures have yet to be discovered, appropriate therapeutic intervention—whether behavioral, cognitive, speech-language, or occupational—enables people with autism to pursue their own American Dream. History has proven that autism need not limit an individual's potential: Experts have long posited that such luminary figures as Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton, and Nikola Tesla may have been on the autism spectrum.

Their success, though, is by no means an anomaly. On a daily basis, Texans with autism leverage their unique talents and perspectives in virtually every aspect of public life, from industry and government to education and the arts. They make invaluable contributions to our state as beloved family members, esteemed colleagues, and fellow Texans, and we should therefore do everything within our power to ensure that people with autism are fully integrated into their communities.

Each year, the month of April is set aside to bolster public awareness of autism, to emphasize the need for timely diagnosis and intervention, to encourage continued research, and to celebrate the important role that people with autism play in the larger story of Texas.

By supporting individuals with autism and providing reliable services, we can bring about a better, brighter future for the neurotypical and the neurodivergent alike. At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about autism and to show heartfelt support for affected individuals and families.

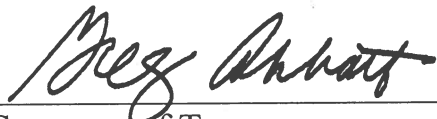
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2023 to be

Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
20th day of March, 2023.



Governor of Texas