



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Autism spectrum disorder is a lifelong neurological condition that can cause difficulty with communication and social interaction. Texas is home to roughly 500,000 people with autism, and that number is likely to grow as diagnosis becomes more accurate. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 1 in 59 children meet the criteria for an autism diagnosis. However, autism impacts all ages and genders and can be diagnosed in adults as well as children. Women and girls with autism may be significantly under-identified, meaning they may miss out on necessary support and guidance.

Early intervention and various therapy programs can help people with autism lead successful lives. These individuals have the same desires as all Texans – to be self-determined, work and earn a living, practice their faith, and be included in their community. Throughout our state's history, people with autism have utilized their unique abilities and experiences to contribute to Texas' rich diversity. Texas is a stronger 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 intervention, encouraging continued research, and emphasizing the importance of getting to know our fellow Texans with autism.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the challenges and unique perspectives of individuals with autism and to recognize the families and health care professionals supporting Texans with autism.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2019 to be

Autism Awareness Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
1st day of April, 2019.


Governor of Texas