



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

An estimated 480,000 Texans have a developmental disability. These children and adults—like all Texans—strive to be self-sufficient, to work and earn a living, to practice their faith, to interact with peers, and to contribute to their community. Although people with developmental disabilities face obstacles that their peers do not, no condition can reduce the dignity and worth they possess by virtue of their humanity. Moreover, their talent, perspective, and experiences bolster our state's rich diversity, and these Texans have long made the Lone Star State a better, brighter place.

Texas is stronger when all her citizens are fully integrated into their communities. To this end, when students with developmental disabilities are included in classroom settings outside of special education, they are more likely to achieve their full academic potential, and when adults with disabilities are given opportunities in our workforce, they are able to earn a competitive wage, work as part of a team, and support their local economy. This spirit of inclusion brings with it benefits at the societal, community, and individual levels, and it enables people with developmental disabilities to lead longer, healthier lives, engage more fully with the world around them, and give back to others.

Each year, the month of March is set aside in order to raise awareness about developmental disabilities and to highlight the importance of including people of all abilities in every aspect of community life. During this month, concerned citizens, civic groups, and government entities labor in common cause to remind all Texans that classrooms, workplaces, churches, and communities are stronger when they include all people—regardless of their ability status.

At this time, I encourage Texans to educate themselves about developmental disabilities and to support full inclusion by any means possible. As we work together to build the Texas of tomorrow, we must always cherish the time-honored value of liberty and justice for *all*.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim March 2023 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
17th day of February, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Governor of Texas