

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## Governor's Office

### PROCLAMATION

#### AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

April 2019

*WHEREAS, autism can affect anyone regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status, or geography; and*

*WHEREAS, the prevalence of autism in the United States is 1 in 59 children; and*

*WHEREAS, autism affects more than 3 million people in the United States; and more than 55,000 children and adults with autism are receiving services in the commonwealth; and*

*WHEREAS, children and adults with autism are our family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and*

*WHEREAS, each individual with autism is unique, with talents and qualities such as exceptional focus and dedication; and*

*WHEREAS, individuals with autism benefit from specialized services and community support to ensure their health and safety and full participation in community life; and*

*WHEREAS, individuals with autism, families, professionals, and community members are supported through connections with others and the sharing of resources, including through access to ASERT initiatives such as the Statewide Resource Center, and #ASDNext; and*

*WHEREAS, the resilience of families and individuals with autism is strengthened through support; and*

*WHEREAS, we value what is important to people with autism and their families, who are striving to live everyday lives; and*

*WHEREAS, positive outcomes increase for individuals with autism when training is provided to professionals across all systems, including those in justice, healthcare, and emergency response settings; and*

*WHEREAS, the aims for Autism Acceptance Month are to inform the general public about both the potential and needs of people with autism and to stress the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention, as well as the importance of providing appropriate supports that continue through adulthood;*

*THEREFORE, in recognition of Pennsylvanians diagnosed with autism, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to provide their support in furthering autism awareness and acceptance.*



*GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-sixth day of February two thousand nineteen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-third.*

*Tom Wolf*  
TOM WOLF  
Governor