

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Autism is a neurological condition which affects approximately 1% of the population; and

**Whereas** Currently, approximately 1 to 1.5 million Americans live with an autism spectrum disorder; and

**Whereas** Early diagnosis and intervention of autism lead to significantly improved outcomes; and

**Whereas** Proper accommodations can aid autistic persons to achieve their full potential; and

**Whereas** In 2010, Massachusetts joined the growing list of states that require autism to be defined as a medical condition for insurance purposes; and

**Whereas** The unemployment rate among autistic adults is extremely high, despite their ability to be valuable employees if given the proper working conditions; and

**Whereas** It is in our interest to promote an environment of acceptance, respect and inclusion for autistic individuals; and

**Whereas** Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to minimize the negative effects of autism among all Massachusetts residents,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick,** Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 2012, to be,

## AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this ninth day of March, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts