

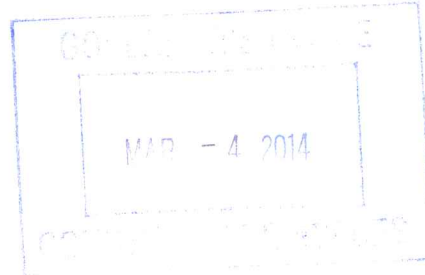


AUTISM SPEAKS
It's time to listen.

www.AutismSpeaks.org

February 27, 2014

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House
Office of the Governor, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133



Dear Governor Patrick,

On April 2, 2014, people across the country and around the globe will commemorate World Autism Awareness Day. It is a day of promise and a time for us to lend our hearts and minds to all who live with autism.

As part of this global effort, Autism Speaks is proud to sponsor the fifth annual Light It Up Blue campaign. Autism Speaks, founded in 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright, is the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization. Light It Up Blue is a global initiative aiming to increase autism awareness by, quite literally, lighting the world up blue. We would be honored to have the great state of Massachusetts participate.

Last year, over 8,400 iconic buildings, businesses, and homes, spread over every continent, 101 countries, and 1,335 cities lit up blue. This included several capitol buildings, governors' mansions, and federal courthouses in the U.S. as well as numerous landmarks such as the South Pole, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Empire State Building, and even the International Space Station!

- April 2014, we plan to light up over 10,000 buildings around the globe. There are two ways you can help:
- We are asking that you consider participating in Light It Up Blue by lighting up a governmental building - the State Capitol, Governor's Mansion, Legislative Office Building, or Judicial buildings.
 - We also ask that you issue a Proclamation to declare April 2, 2014 as Massachusetts Autism Awareness Day and April 2014 as Massachusetts Autism Awareness Month.

Included for your reference is an information sheet about Light It Up Blue as well as a sample proclamation for you to consider issuing on April 2, 2014. Visit www.autismspeaks.org/liub2014 to register and see a full list of participating buildings.

Thank you so much for your leadership and consideration of our historic event! We would be grateful for your participation this year as we raise awareness about this cause that affects nearly three million people of all ages. If you have any questions or would like more information on how you can participate in Light It Up Blue, please email Judith Ursitti at Judith.Ursitti@autismspeaks.org.

Warmest Regards,

Liz Feld
President, Autism Speaks

2458985

2014 World Autism Awareness Day & Month Proclamation

SAMPLE

WHEREAS, autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than three million people, is an urgent public health crisis that demands a national response; and,

WHEREAS, autism is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the human brain, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and,

WHEREAS, symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal as well as nonverbal communication; and,

WHEREAS, the effort to address autism continues, doctors, therapists, and educators can help persons with autism overcome or adjust to its challenges and provide early, accurate diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education, intervention, and therapy that are vital to future growth and development; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring that persons living with autism have access to the lifelong care and services needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and achieve their greatest potential; and,

*WHEREAS, The **City/State** is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Awareness Day in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder; and,*

*THEREFORE, I, **Name/Title**, do hereby proclaim April 2014 as **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** and April 2, 2014 as **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY** in **City/State** to raise public awareness of autism and the myriad of issues surrounding autism, as well as to increase knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.*