

# 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, 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 2011, 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 first day of April, in the year two thousand and ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-third.

By His Excellency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick". The signature is fluid and cursive.

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts