

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas The Center for Disease Control identifies approximately 1 in 88 American children are on the autism spectrum—a ten-fold increase in prevalence in 40 years; and

Whereas Early diagnosis of autism and early intervention can 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 barriers faced by autistic people, their families, and their support networks,

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

AUTISM AWARENESS & ACCEPTANCE 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