



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Autism spectrum disorders are a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, and speech and nonverbal communications; and
- WHEREAS:** Symptoms and characteristics of autism spectrum disorders may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong difficulties in verbal and nonverbal communication, social interaction, and leisure activities; and
- WHEREAS:** Autism spectrum disorders affects an estimated 1 in 44 U.S. children and 1 in 45 U.S. adults, and it is a complex condition that affects each person differently, resulting in unique strengths and challenges; and
- WHEREAS:** Autism is often accompanied by medical conditions that impact quality of life, and though autism itself does not affect life expectancy, research has shown that the mortality rate among individuals with autism is twice as high as the general population; and
- WHEREAS:** Early diagnosis and intervention tailored to individual needs can have lifelong benefits, easing the transition to adulthood and fostering greater independence; and
- WHEREAS:** It is in the interest of the State of Georgia to recognize achievements in this field and to continue these efforts by promoting awareness, care, services, and opportunities for individuals affected by autism so they may achieve their greatest potential; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 9th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Martha Kipertich

CHIEF OF STAFF