



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:** An autism spectrum disorder has wide-ranging implications for the entire family of the diagnosed individual. Early diagnosis, research training, education, and therapy are vital to reducing the negative effects of the disorder; and
- WHEREAS:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that about 1 in 54 children have been identified with autism spectrum disorder; and
- WHEREAS:** Autism spectrum disorders are 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:** The State of Georgia recognizes the achievements in this field, and by promoting increasing awareness seeks to better the care, services, and opportunities for individuals affected by autism so that they may achieve their greatest potential; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2023, 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 20th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

M. Kipatnick

CHIEF OF STAFF