



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH
March 2018**

WHEREAS, people with a developmental disability are of all racial, ethnic, educational, social, and economic backgrounds, and all are valued members of society who find fulfillment living everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, we value what is important to people with disabilities and their families who are striving for everyday lives no different than that of all other citizens; and

WHEREAS, I signed an executive order to increase integrated employment opportunities among people with disabilities in Pennsylvania because I recognize that individuals with disabilities have the capacity to positively contribute to the development of Pennsylvania's economy; and

WHEREAS, my administration and the Department of Human Services has launched the Supporting Families Initiative, which is providing grants to regional collaboratives to encourage families of individuals with developmental disabilities or autism to have high expectations of full and purposeful lives that include meaningful jobs in the community, friendships, health, safety, and spiritual and social opportunities; and

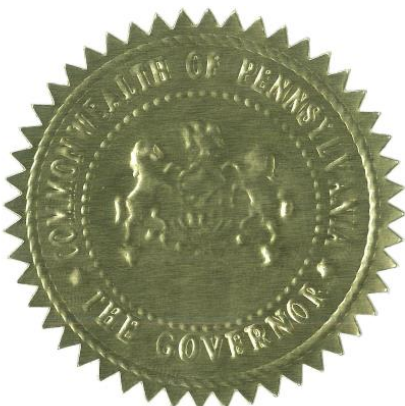
WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services publishes Everyday Lives: Values in Action, an ongoing report in collaboration with the Office of Developmental Programs' Information Sharing and Advisory Committee, in order to guide the Office of Developmental Programs as it develops policy and designs programs that guide everyone toward the possibility of an everyday life; and

WHEREAS, the Department publishes Everyday Lives: Values in Action Information Sharing and Advisory Committee Recommendations, Strategies, and Performance Measures and holds yearly collaborative conferences to serve as a guide for everyone engaged in developing, providing, and advocating for services and to measure our progress; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services also provides free access for families and individuals with a disability to an online learning center, the College of Direct Support, to learn more about disability services, advocacy, supports, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, early intervention, education, employment, and home and community-based services continue to be vital to enabling citizens with a developmental disability to enjoy the rights of citizenship and to participate in the life of Pennsylvania's communities.

THEREFORE, to recognize the many accomplishments and contributions of people with a developmental disability, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim March 2018 as NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH. I encourage all citizens to support Pennsylvanians with a developmental disability and their families in all aspects of Pennsylvania community life.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this first day of March two thousand eighteen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-second.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor