



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH), with partners across the state, celebrates Autism Acceptance Month each April to promote acceptance, awareness and inclusion for Autism, a complex developmental condition.

WHEREAS, first held in 1972 by the Autism Society, Autism Acceptance Month emphasizes the need for public awareness to promote acceptance, celebrate the differences and be more inclusive towards individuals with Autism; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in 44 children has been identified with ASD, according to the Centers for Disease Control (2021); and

WHEREAS, individuals with ASD may have challenges with social, emotional and communication skills. Many with ASD also have different ways of learning, paying attention or reacting to things. Signs of ASD begin during early childhood and typically last throughout a person's life; and

WHEREAS, early intervention treatment services facilitated by the ADMH Office of Autism Services can improve a child's development, if diagnosed with a disability. ADMH also partners with the Regional Autism Networks; and

WHEREAS, during the month of April, we strive to promote Autism acceptance, awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all and ensure that each person with ASD is provided an opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 2023, as

Autism Acceptance Month

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 6th day of April 2023.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor