



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disability that may affect how people communicate, interact and experience the world around them; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH), in partnership with organizations across the state, observes Autism Acceptance Month each April to promote understanding and to support individuals with autism. First recognized in 1972 by the Autism Society of America, this month serves as a reminder to move beyond awareness and embrace acceptance, celebrating differences and advocating for a more understanding society; and*

*WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025), approximately one in 31 children in the United States has been identified with autism spectrum disorder. Additionally, more than 5.4 million adults in the U.S. are living with autism, highlighting the need for lifelong support and understanding; and*

*WHEREAS, early signs of autism often appear in childhood and persist throughout life, making early identification and access to support crucial for development and wellbeing. Individuals with ASD may face challenges with social interactions, communication and sensory processing, while possessing unique strengths and talents; and*

*WHEREAS, early intervention and personalized services can make a significant difference in the lives of those with ASD. The ADMH Office of Autism Services plays a vital role in providing these supports through programs such as intensive care coordination, therapeutic mentoring, behavioral support, in-home therapy, family support and peer support; and*

*WHEREAS, the ADMH leads the Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council, created to develop and implement a statewide comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families. ADMH also partners with the Regional Autism Networks to offer resources, training, technical assistance and public education while serving as a valuable support system for individuals and families across Alabama; and*

*WHEREAS, throughout the month of April, we come together to promote and celebrate autism acceptance and advocate for a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, reach their fullest potential and be accepted for who they are:*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 2026, 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.*

*Kay Ivey*  
Kay Ivey, Governor