



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Rehabilitation Act, which was the first federal law aimed at providing equal access for people with disabilities by removing employment, architectural, and transportation barriers; and
- WHEREAS: For 50 years, the Minnesota Human Rights Act has sought to advance equal opportunities for employees and job applicants with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS: Individuals with disabilities are valuable and skillful workers, as well as productive contributors and taxpayers in the workforce; and
- WHEREAS: The unemployment rate is 9.8% for people with one or more disabilities and 3.7% for people with no disabilities in Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota acknowledges the long history of isolation and discrimination against Minnesotans with disabilities and recognizes the decades of activism and advocacy by the disability community for access to fulfilling employment; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota employers play an essential role in providing opportunities for work experience and career advancement; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota values and empowers the contributions of all people, including people with disabilities, as this benefits our economy and competitiveness in the global marketplace and helps to address the state's workforce shortage; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota, in accordance with Minnesota's Olmstead Plan, is committed to providing Minnesotans with disabilities with a continuum of work options that best meet individual needs and choices in a person-centered manner; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota's new Employer Reasonable Accommodation Fund assists small and mid-sized companies in paying for accommodations so employees can perform the duties of their work efficiently; and
- WHEREAS: Each October, government, nonprofit, and business organizations across the country celebrate National Disability Awareness Month to highlight the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present and showcase supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices that benefit employers and employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim October 2023 as:

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 28th day of September.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim Walz".

GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve Simon".

SECRETARY OF STATE