



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

WHEREAS: According to the Centers for Disease Control, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has a national prevalence rate of 1 in 44 people, with a prevalence rate of 1 in 36 people in Minnesota, with recognition and diagnosis rates continuing to grow; and

WHEREAS: April is National Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month, an observance established in the 1970s to highlight the growing need for awareness and engagement around autism in the United States and provide a special opportunity for everyone to learn about autism and how to support the autism community; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Autism Resource Portal was created as a joint state agency effort involving the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Department of Health (MDH), Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and the Department of Human Services (DHS). The Institute on Community Integration (ICI) at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities served as a key partner along with the Minnesota Department of Information Technology (MN.IT); and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Autism Resource Portal provides the Minnesota autism community with up-to-date information and resources related to autism, as well as opportunities to connect, share, and learn together. Content comes from a variety of sources, such as nonprofit organizations, state and federal agencies, and other autism-related organizations, and updated and changed with community input and feedback; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota is committed to supporting the autism community at every age, including increasing early and equitable access to autism identification and intervention; and

WHEREAS: Bringing the community together in celebration of Autism Acceptance Month results in greater awareness, understanding, inclusion, and appreciation of those who live with autism.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as:

## AUTISM 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March.

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Steve Pimm in black ink.  
SECRETARY OF STATE