WHEREAS: This year is the 29th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 74th Anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Labor has announced the 2019 theme for Disability Employment Awareness Month as "The Right Talent, Right Now"; and

WHEREAS: Individuals with disabilities are proving themselves as valuable and productive contributors and taxpayers in the workforce; and

WHEREAS: More than half a million, or approximately 11%, of Minnesotans report having one or more disabilities and the unemployment rate is more than double that of people without disabilities; and

WHEREAS: Employers are crucial in providing opportunities for work experience, career paths and the dignity that comes through labor; and

WHEREAS: To benefit Minnesota's economy and its competitiveness in the global marketplace, the State of Minnesota must value the contributions of all people, including those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS: The State of 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim October 2019 as:

EMPLOYERS HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 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 30th Day of September.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE