



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: 2023 marks the 53rd anniversary of the United States Congress passing a law that today is titled the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act); and
- WHEREAS: The DD Act defines developmental disabilities as, "a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society and experience full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of society"; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately 1.58% of Minnesotans have a developmental disability; and
- WHEREAS: Individuals with developmental disabilities should be provided with the information, skills, opportunities, and individualized supports to make informed choices and decisions about their own lives; and
- WHEREAS: Individuals with developmental disabilities can make choices to live in homes and communities with persons and support providers of their choice, where they can exercise their full human and civil rights and responsibilities, pursue meaningful and productive lives and careers, contribute to their families, communities, state, and nation, and have independent friendships and relationships with people with and without disabilities; and
- WHEREAS: It is crucial that all individuals live free of abuse, neglect, and violations of their legal and human rights and achieve full integration, inclusion and belonging in society, in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities of each individual; and
- WHEREAS: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity for individuals and families to share their experiences and knowledge with the public so that we all become more aware of how developmental disabilities affect all of our lives.

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

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES 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 February.

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Steve Pimm in black ink.

SECRETARY OF STATE