

STATE of MINNESOTA

WHEREAS:

2022 marks the fifty-second anniversary of the United States Congress passing the Federal

Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act); and

WHEREAS: The DD Act defines developmental disabilities as a natural part of the human experience that do

> not diminish the right of individuals to live independently, exert control and choice over their own lives, and fully participate in and contribute to their communities through 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 support to make informed choices and decisions about their own lives; and

WHEREAS: $Individuals\ with\ developmental\ disabilities\ can\ make\ choices\ to\ live\ in\ homes\ and\ communities\ in$

which such individuals can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens, pursue meaningful and productive lives, contribute to their families, communities, state, and nation, and

have independent friendships and relationships; and

WHEREAS: It is crucial that individuals can live free of abuse, neglect, and violations of their legal and human

> rights and achieve full integration and inclusion in society, in an individualized manner, consistent with unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities of everyone; and

WHEREAS: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month provides for individuals and families to share their

experiences and knowledge with the public so that we all may be made more aware of how

developmental disabilities affect all of our lives.

 $NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM\ WALZ, Governor\ of\ Minnesota,\ do\ hereby\ proclaim\ March\ 2022\ as:$

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 25th day of February.