



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The United States Congress passed the federal Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) in 1970; and
- WHEREAS: The DD Act finds that disability is a natural part of the human experience and does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to 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 66,000 – 91,000 Minnesotans have a developmental disability; and
- WHEREAS: Individuals with developmental disabilities should be provided with the information, skills, opportunities and supports to make informed choices and decisions about their lives; and
- WHEREAS: These individuals 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, and state and the nation; and have interdependent 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 the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities and capabilities of everyone; and
- WHEREAS: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Week provides the opportunity for families and individuals affected by these conditions to share their experiences and knowledge with the public, so that we all may be made more aware of how Developmental Disabilities affects all our lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tim Walz, governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim March 2019 as Development Disabilities Awareness Month in Minnesota, and commend its observance to all citizens.

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of February.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE