



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Today, it is estimated that 549,000 individuals in Texas have developmental disabilities. Ultimately, they aspire to the very same hopes and dreams we all cherish as Texans—to be self-sufficient, to find fulfilling work, to practice one’s faith, and to make a difference. Like all Texans, people with developmental disabilities have unique skills and perspectives, but they also face unique challenges. It is important to raise awareness about the disability experience in Texas and to understand how each person can lead the best life possible. Throughout our history, many of these Texans have done precisely that, touching lives, contributing to their communities, and making the Lone Star State a better place for us all.

Texas is better off when *all* citizens can flourish, so we must do everything in our power to facilitate personal and professional success for people with developmental disabilities. When these students are included in classroom settings outside of special education, they are more likely to achieve their full academic potential. By the same token, when people with disabilities are included in the workforce, they have an opportunity to earn a competitive wage, work as a valued team member, and support our state’s unrivaled economy. Further, people with developmental disabilities who are involved in their community generally live longer, healthier lives and are more likely to give back. In sum, when inclusion is a reality, the entire state thrives.

Each year, the month of March is set aside to shed light on developmental disabilities; to show solidarity with affected individuals, their families, and their care providers; and to emphasize the importance of inclusion in every aspect of life. During this observance and hereafter, Texans can learn about how classrooms, workplaces, houses of worship, and communities are stronger when they include people of all abilities.

At this time, I encourage my fellow Texans to raise awareness about developmental disabilities and to take up the banner of full inclusion and equality for all.

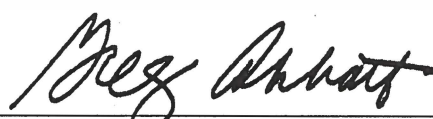
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim March 2024 to be

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



in Texas and urge all Texans to observe the occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature this the 23rd day of February, 2024.



Governor of Texas