

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental disability characterized by social and behavioral challenges and can result in lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors or understand both verbal and nonverbal communications; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1-in-36 children in the United States are affected by autism, making it the fastest growing developmental disorder, and no single cause of Autism has been identified; however, research has discovered potential risk factors, including environmental, biologic and genetic factors; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms and characteristics of Autism affect each individual differently and in a variety of combinations, and research has shown early identification, education and therapy can improve a child's development and provide them with the tools they need for a bright future; and

WHEREAS, all individuals with Autism should be regarded as valuable members of our community, and be provided with equal opportunities and support to live, work and play; and

WHEREAS, a variety of public and private organizations and agencies, such as the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, strive to provide quality care, support and/or services to children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder to enable them to live as independently as possible and reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Autism, their families and caregivers are striving to improve opportunities and services for children and adults with Autism and through research, training, support groups, advocacy and increased awareness, we will become more inclusive and be better equipped to support the growing number of individuals with autism and their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as

Autism Acceptance Month

in Washington and I encourage all Washingtonians to educate themselves about Autism Spectrum Disorder, advocate for the right to live in the community independently, offer assistance when asked and work together to ensure that individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder are treated respectfully.

Signed this 18th day of April, 2025

Governor Bob Ferguson

