



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, we recognize that disability is a natural part of the human experience and that people living with developmental disabilities, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, have the right to live independently, to exert control and choice over their lives, to fully participate in all aspects of society, and to achieve the highest quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network states that 1 in 36 children in the United States, or almost 15,000 New Mexican children, and approximately 2% of New Mexican adults are diagnosed with autism; and

WHEREAS, autism is an immensely diverse neuro-developmental disability that can affect an individual's social skills, communication abilities, and behavior throughout their lives; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexicans with autism make invaluable social, cultural, and economic contributions in every community across our State; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of World Autism Awareness Day on April 2 and National Autism Acceptance Month in April is to promote autism acceptance, to foster inclusivity and connection across all autism communities, to honor the unique perspectives of people living with autism, to celebrate each individual's differences, and to support children with autism and their families, helping each child reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the fundamental rights of New Mexicans of all abilities, including children and their families, to have equality of opportunity, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency, including full access to quality education, meaningful employment, safe and affordable housing, and fulfilling recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, I established the Public Education Department's Office of Special Education and the Developmental Disabilities Council's Office of the Special Education Ombud to ensure students with autism and developmental disabilities receive comprehensive, person-centered education services; and

WHEREAS, under my administration, State leaders across multiple State agencies collaborate and partner to coordinate health, education, employment, and community-based services for New Mexicans with autism and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, our State recognizes that tremendous work remains to achieve full and equal participation for people living with autism and other developmental disabilities, and we affirm our commitment to building a New Mexico where individuals of all abilities are included and integrated in all aspects community life.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as:

"Autism Awareness Month"

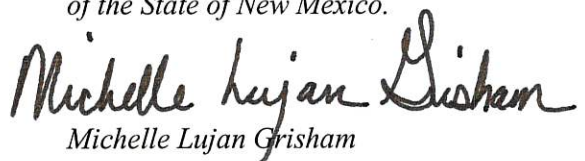
throughout the State of New Mexico.

Attest: 

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
19th day of March 2024.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

