

## STATE of MINNESOTA

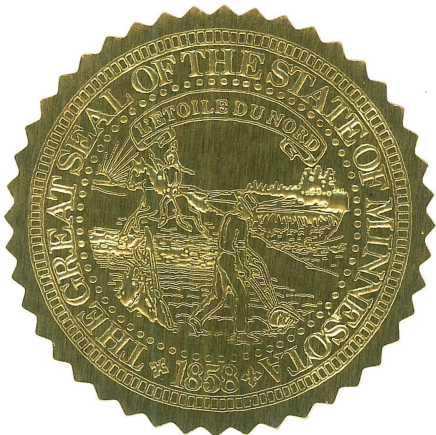
# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than three million people, is an urgent public health crisis that demands a national response; and
- WHEREAS: Autism is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the human brain, and can affect anyone regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and
- WHEREAS: Symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant, lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal and nonverbal communication; and
- WHEREAS: Doctors, therapists, and educators can help people with autism overcome or adjust to its challenges and provide early, accurate diagnosis, and the resulting appropriate education, intervention, and therapy, which are vital to future growth and development; and
- WHEREAS: People living with autism should have access to the lifelong care and services needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and achieve their greatest potential; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Awareness Day in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, April 2, 2014, as:

## AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

and the month of April 2014, as Autism 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 31<sup>st</sup> day of March.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE