



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State recognizes the need to fully understand complex health issues and our society is increasingly aware of the difficulties faced by individuals with autism and autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) which cause developmental delays that affect a person's cognitive and learning abilities, characterized by abnormal development of social interaction and communication skills, and by restricted, repetitive and/or stereotyped patterns of behavior; and

Whereas, today, more than 60,000 New York State residents have a diagnosis of autism or autism spectrum disorders, and the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) serves approximately 17,000 affected individuals, about 60 percent of whom are 21 years of age or younger; and

Whereas, various studies indicate a substantial increase in the number of children diagnosed with autism in the past 10 to 20 years, affecting approximately 1 in 150 births; this rate is considerably higher in boys, affecting approximately 1 in 100, and it is estimated that the incidence of autism could reach 4 million Americans in the next decade; and

Whereas, autism presents serious challenges to caregivers as well as to those involved with the affected person's education, treatment and employment – of major concern to parents, clinicians and researchers are issues related to diagnosis, etiology, treatment, prognosis, and family planning; and

Whereas, however, progress is continuously being made through scientific study and medical research which has produced reliable new methods of diagnosis, fundamental understanding of the varieties and causes of ASDs, and more effective treatments and, as a result, persons with ASD can look forward to fulfilling and productive lives; and

Whereas, OMRDD's Institute for Basic Research (IBR) recently expanded its team of scientists dedicated to autism research, adding recognized experts in child psychiatry and autism, research psychology and neuropathology in relation to autism; additionally, IBR's newly established Autism Treatment Research Laboratory is designed to transfer the research findings into practical applications to improve the lives of individuals with Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders; and

Whereas, through early diagnosis, intervention programs and other supports and services, many children and adults with autism enjoy meaningful lives as involved members of communities across this State and Nation, and it is vital to continue educating people about autism and the entire range of autism spectrum disorders;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day
of March in the year two thousand ten.

David A. Paterson

Governor

James Schwab
Secretary to the Governor