

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex neurodevelopmental condition that affects individuals across the lifespan, influencing their social, communication, and sensory experiences; and
- WHEREAS, ASD can cause challenges with verbal and nonverbal communication, social interaction, and repetitive behaviors and is often accompanied by medical conditions that impact quality of life; and
- WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 36 children have been diagnosed with ASD; and
- WHEREAS, a comprehensive, collaborative approach can help advance research and lead to a better understanding of the many forms of ASD while strengthening advocacy efforts and ensuring access to services and resources throughout the life span and across the spectrum; and
- WHEREAS, early diagnosis and intervention tailored to individual needs can have lifelong benefits, easing the transition to adulthood and fostering greater independence; and
- WHEREAS, every individual, regardless of their neurological differences, deserves to be treated with respect, understanding, and acceptance, valued for their unique strengths, abilities, and perspectives, and welcomed by a more compassionate society where all citizens can thrive; and
- WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by ASD need access to reliable information and supports that can contribute to better opportunities for people with autism to reach their greatest potential; and
- WHEREAS, Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month provides an opportunity for the people of South Carolina to learn more about autism, promote acceptance and understanding, and support initiatives that foster a more inclusive and accepting society.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as

AUTISM AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to ensure that individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and appropriately treated throughout their lives, helping to create a kinder, more welcoming world for people with ASD.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster", written in a cursive style.

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA