Proclamation

Whereas, New York State recognizes, respects, and depends upon the diversity of its people who strengthen our society through their inherent talents and skills, including people with developmental disabilities; and

Whereas, people with developmental disabilities also make important and long-standing contributions to New York State through their advocacy, civic engagement, and community involvement; and

Whereas, people with developmental disabilities have the right to high quality, person-centered services and supports, meaningful relationships, good health, personal growth, freedom from discrimination, harmful social attitudes, and stereotypes, protection from abuse and neglect, and accessibility to inclusive workplaces and residential settings, within communities of their choice; and

Whereas, New York State continues to build upon its commitment to people with developmental disabilities by creating new programs, expanding and improving current programs, and developing initiatives that better serve and support them; in October 2021, New York secured federal workforce funding for resources that will enhance and support employment outcomes for people with disabilities; in December, New York enacted a series of legislative measures to help people with disabilities by strengthening resources of support, healthcare, and employment, including for Veterans with disabilities; and

Whereas, through another historic step taken in New York State, last month we announced the establishment of the Office of the Chief Disability Officer and appointment of the state’s first Chief Disability Officer to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities; as a voice for the disability community, this new leadership role is critical for those with various disabilities – including people with physical sensory, mobility, intellectual, developmental, and psychiatric disabilities; and

Whereas, making improvements in all aspects of service delivery will help ensure that people with developmental disabilities continue living life to the fullest, have access to the same opportunities, and are empowered to achieve their personal goals; and

Whereas, throughout the month of March, New Yorkers will recognize the many significant contributions people with developmental disabilities make to our society while also recognizing various innovations that are helping to break down physical and social barriers so they can lead fulfilling lives, serve their communities, and share in the same opportunities we all do in this state and nation;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 2022 as

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES 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 twenty-eighth day of February in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh