

# Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** autism spectrum disorder affects an estimated 1 in 36 children and there are approximately 10,000 autistic children in West Virginia; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia schools have tracked a 250% increase in autistic students receiving special education services in the last decade; and
- Whereas,** autism is a complex condition that affects each person differently, resulting in unique strengths and challenges; and
- Whereas,** autism can cause challenges with verbal and nonverbal communication, social interaction, and repetitive behaviors; and
- Whereas,** early diagnosis and interventions that are tailored to each individual's needs can have lifelong benefits, easing the transition to adulthood by fostering greater independence; and
- Whereas,** each person and family affected by autism should have access to reliable information and support; and
- Whereas,** autistic people should have opportunities to reach their full potential; and
- Whereas,** the Great State of West Virginia is honored to take part in the annual observance of *World Autism Awareness Month* to address the diverse needs of individuals with autism and their families.

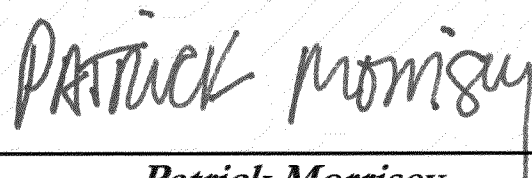
**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 2025* as:

## *World Autism Awareness Month*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey  
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner  
Secretary of State