



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Colorado wishes to celebrate, promote, and protect the human rights of people with disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, disabilities are a natural part of the human experience and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have inherent value with individual strengths and abilities, are equal before the law, and must be treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, collaboration, education, employment and home and community-based services are vital to enable people with IDD to achieve a self-determined lifestyle, and engage in all aspects and contribute to their communities and to the well-being of others; and

WHEREAS, the most effective way to increase awareness is through openness to learn and acknowledge that there are systemic barriers that reduce the likelihood of those with disabilities to enjoy equitable experiences and live independent, productive lives within their communities; and

WHEREAS, Colorado encourages and supports the civil, legal, and human rights of our citizens with IDD, including but not limited to equal protection before the law, effective communication supports and accommodations under the ADA that ensure meaningful engagement in all aspects of due process, freedom from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, to make their own person-centered decisions to advocate for themselves and express their will and preferences, and to receive the supports they need to be successful, productive, and independent members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, awareness must be raised that segregated institutions, policies, programs, and services are not only more financially costly to our society, but are also costly to those with disabilities who desire to live independent, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, citizens should do all within their power to create ways to include everyone, especially those with IDD, to be fully included in all aspects of life and that policymakers no longer invest in segregation, but rather create inclusive, equitable policies and systems for all; and

WHEREAS, during the past several difficult years of the COVID-19 pandemic, opportunities for inclusion and community engagement for individuals with disabilities have been particularly affected; and

WHEREAS, National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month seeks to educate the community about the rights of individuals with IDD to live their best lives and be seen and as a contributing neighbor, co-worker, church member, classmate, voter, friend, volunteer, and valued member of their community;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2023 as

INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD) AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-ninth day of March, 2023



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Polis
Governor