

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the human brain and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS, symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors and understand verbal as well as nonverbal communication; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, a governor's Executive Order was issued to ensure Ohio children with autism and their families have access to autism services through state employee health insurance, health insurance sold in the private market, and health insurance sold through the federally managed health insurance exchange; and

WHEREAS, in order to improve the age of initial diagnosis, the State of Ohio financially supported the training of hundreds of pediatricians to correctly identify the early signs of autism and supported specialized evidence-based, early intervention training for parents to nurture the early parent/child relationship; and

WHEREAS, a new cutting-edge online training program, ASD Strategies In Action, is free to all Ohioans, and provides practical information and skills, demonstrated through real-life settings in the home, school, community, and workplace, to help everyone who interacts with individuals with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, in light of the growing impact of autism spectrum disorders and the need for greater awareness, Autism Speaks holds their "Light It Up Blue!" campaign on World Autism Awareness Day, designed to increase awareness about autism by asking participating organizations to turn their lights blue.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, John R. Kasich and Mary Taylor, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize April 2, 2016 as

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

and April 2016 as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

throughout Ohio and encourage all Ohioans to join us in raising awareness of autism and the myriad of issues surrounding autism, as well as increasing awareness and knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.

On this 1st day of April 2016:



John R. Kasich
Governor



Mary Taylor
Lieutenant Governor

