

Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities affect millions of individuals, as well as their concerned families and friends; and

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities continue to be marked by stigma and discrimination based on preconceived notions and misinformation; and

WHEREAS, March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, which seeks to increase public awareness about developmental disabilities and promote greater understanding of the issues affecting people with developmental disabilities. The awareness month also seeks to show that people with developmental disabilities are vital and vibrant members of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health thanks our partner organizations and recognizes the continuing need to educate our communities, policymakers, friends and family members, health care providers and businesses that the movement towards full inclusion in community life for persons with developmental disabilities is a positive and worthy goal; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 2.5 to 3 or approximately 122,000 Alabamians are born with a developmental disability, which can be manifested by substantial functional limitations, including self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, independent living, and economic self-efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities supports the compassionate and devoted efforts to increase independence, employment, and access to services for the people we serve across the state, through direct work and through the service providers; and

WHEREAS, the desire to maintain family relationships is of utmost importance to an individual's health, well-being and happiness. It is important to provide the needed supports that can enable individuals with disabilities to live in family homes or their own homes;

NOW, ~~THEREFORE~~, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 2019, as

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

in the State of Alabama.

*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on
the 27th day of March 2019.*

Kay Ivey
