



State of Missouri

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the disability experience is a natural part of life and is valued as a part of our rich diversity; 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 enjoying equitable experiences and living independent, productive lives within their communities; and

WHEREAS, equitable experiences and full inclusion is a matter of social justice. Consequently, creating equitable inclusive environments is a shared responsibility of everyone; and

WHEREAS, policies must be developed, attitudes shaped, and equitable experiences offered to all individuals, including those with developmental disabilities; and

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

WHEREAS, it is further costly to our communities, as society misses out on the rich talents and experiences those with disabilities have to offer their communities; and

WHEREAS, citizens should do all within their power to recognize the value and intersectionality of the disability experience in our lives and the valued role it has in our rich diversity; create ways to include everyone, especially those with developmental disabilities, to be fully included in all aspects of life; understand the losses when communities segregate and create barriers for those with disabilities; and demand policymakers no longer invest in segregation and create inclusive, equitable policies and systems for all.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim March 2019 to be

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

in Missouri, and galvanize efforts that will lead our communities and policymakers to create real systems so people with developmental disabilities will enjoy equitable, inclusive lives.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 20th day of February, 2019.



Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE