



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a neurodevelopmental disorder, is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than three million people; and

WHEREAS, the number of children affected by autism nationally is now approximately one in sixty-eight, and approximately one in forty-five children in New Jersey are diagnosed with autism according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the lifelong nature of ASD and other developmental disabilities have a serious impact on the thousands of individuals and their families across New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Autism Registry has identified more than 15,000 children with autism and provides information on the characteristics of, and the services needed by, children with autism for policy and planning in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, a variety of public and private organizations and agencies strive to provide quality care, support or services to children and adults with ASD to enable them to live as independently as possible and to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, each organization has a role in identifying, assessing or supporting those with ASD and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism provides funding to support the NJ Autism Center of Excellence which conducts biomedical and clinical research on autism; and

WHEREAS, the Office on Autism in the Department of Human Services provides a central location to address ASD issues and to enhance communication and coordination among our State agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

APRIL 2015

AS

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey, and encourage our residents to become educated and informed about programs, services and opportunities to support individuals with autism.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twentieth day of March in the year two thousand fifteen, the two hundred thirty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States.

*Kim Guadagno*  
Lt. GOVERNOR

*Chris Christie*  
GOVERNOR