



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

***DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY IN FLORIDA***

**WHEREAS, it is essential that Florida's families are empowered to overcome the health challenges they may face; and**

**WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines developmental disabilities as a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical learning, language, or behavior areas that usually impact day-to-day functioning and last throughout a person's lifetime; and**

**WHEREAS, through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Health, and Department of Education, along with partner organizations and thousands of private-sector and community providers, the state of Florida is able to support 100,000 citizens with developmental disabilities; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida's APD is constantly working to increase the number of community services available and the number of individuals with developmental disabilities within the workforce so Floridians with disabilities can live more independently and find great jobs; and**

**WHEREAS, in 2019, under my direction, APD helped nearly 2,800 Floridians with disabilities on the waiver maintain gainful employment; and**

**WHEREAS, at APD's 14<sup>th</sup> annual Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration and Exceptional Employer Awards in 2019, 12 businesses from around the state were recognized for their commitment to inclusion in the workplace by hiring and retaining those with disabilities; and**

**WHEREAS, the proposed 2020-21 Bolder, Brighter, Better Future Budget recommends continuing this investment that will help more Floridians with disabilities receive the services and assistance they need; and**

**WHEREAS, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is an opportunity to raise public awareness and enhance the understanding of the issues affecting people with developmental disabilities.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing February 11, 2020, as *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day in Florida*.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year two thousand twenty.**

  
Governor