A Proclamation

Whereas, There are more than 200,000 children and adults in the Commonwealth who have intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

Whereas, Intellectual and developmental disabilities are chronic conditions attributed to mental or physical impairments which begin early in life and affect major life activities such as self-care, mobility, language, learning, and self-direction; and

Whereas, Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities frequently require specialized interdisciplinary services and treatment as well as generic services and supports for extended periods of their lives; and

Whereas, The support provided by family members, caregivers, friends, professionals and concerned citizens enable individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate more freely in education, employment, and community living; and

Whereas, Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are capable of living full and productive lives, deserving of opportunities to become more independent, economically self-sufficient, and contributing members of the communities where they choose to live,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2019, to be,

INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-first day of February, in the year two thousand and nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts