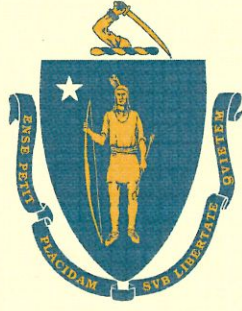


# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

Whereas, Over 200,000 children and adults in Massachusetts have intellectual and developmental disabilities;  
and

Whereas, All people with intellectual and developmental disabilities should be able to live and work in their communities. To do this, they are entitled to the supports and services they need so that they can work in competitive integrated environments, live on their own in the community and learn alongside their peers. Individualized support results in full inclusion; and

Whereas, People with intellectual and developmental disabilities should be able to choose what they want for their lives. This self-determination improves people's lives. When people choose for themselves, it creates more opportunities where they can thrive in real jobs for real pay and where they can get a better education, be healthier and be more independent.; and

Whereas, Many community members provide support and care to their neighbors with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These essential supports can come from family members and friends or from professionals and other community members; and

Whereas, We recognize and value the important work that direct care workers do each day so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live fulfilling lives; and

Whereas, In Massachusetts, we recognize the importance of safeguarding the human and civil rights of everyone in the disability community. We invest in services and supports that allow people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live full lives. We imagine a future where all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can work, live and learn in their community; and

Whereas, In March, we celebrate Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. We recognize the value of inclusion, the importance of supports and services and that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities make the Commonwealth a better, more diverse place to live,

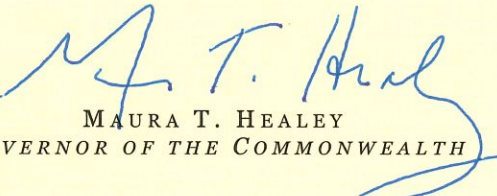
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
do hereby proclaim March 2026, to be,

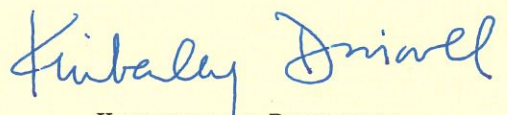
## INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

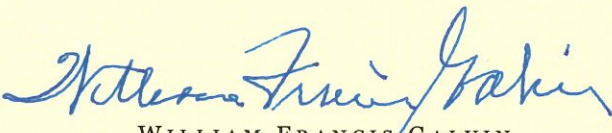
And urge all residents of the Commonwealth to take  
cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

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

BY HER EXCELLENCY

  
MAURA T. HEALEY  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

  
KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts