



**For more information, please contact**  
Jocelyn Sloan, President  
(701) 281-8254  
Jocelyn@AutismND.org  
www.AutismND.org

April 1, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **April is Autism Awareness Month**

(Alice, ND) Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed April as Autism Awareness Month in the state of North Dakota. Support groups, such as the Autism Society of North Dakota, a chapter of the Autism Society of America, and the Bismarck chapter of Autism Speaks, have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the resources, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with Autism. Autism is a complex disability that requires increased research to one day find a cure and prevention. Greater recognition and understanding are needed, to ensure that individuals with Autism living in North Dakota are appropriately treated throughout their lives.

The proclamation is available in its entirety from Governor Hoeven's website, at <http://governor.state.nd.us/proc/docs/2008/04/20080401a.pdf>.

Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting nearly 1.5 million Americans and their families. One in 150 children born today will be diagnosed with autism. Warning signs of an autism spectrum disorder include: a preference for working or playing alone, difficulty understanding another person's point of view, need for predictability, sensory sensitivities, and the lack of recognition of social cues. Parents who suspect their child has an autism spectrum disorder should contact the child's physician for testing. More information, including support, is available online at [www.AutismND.org](http://www.AutismND.org) or [www.AutismSpeaks.org](http://www.AutismSpeaks.org).

The Autism Society of North Dakota is a group of parents, professionals, and individuals with autism spectrum disorders who reside throughout the state of North Dakota. The group was chartered in 2006 as a chapter of the Autism Society of America. The Autism Society of North Dakota and Autism Speaks are committed to improving the lives of all affected by autism spectrum disorders. Both have many resources available to parents and caregivers of those on the autism spectrum.