



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**John Hoeven**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**  
APRIL 2009

**WHEREAS**, autism is a neurological disorder affecting the functioning of the brain, resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal and reciprocal communication; and

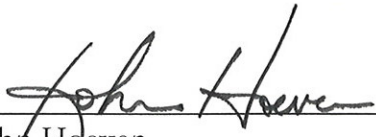
**WHEREAS**, autism is the third most common developmental disability, affecting 1.5 million individuals nationwide and 4,000 individuals in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, although a cure for autism has not been found, persons with autism can be helped to reach their greatest potential through accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education and intervention; and

**WHEREAS**, autism has wide-ranging implications for the entire family of the diagnosed individual, and early diagnosis, research, training, education and therapies are vital to reducing the effects of autism; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakotans are encouraged to increase their recognition and understanding of this complex disability to ensure that individuals with autism are accurately diagnosed and effectively treated throughout their lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2009, **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

  
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John Hoeven  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State