



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH
December 2020

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
December 10, 2020

WHEREAS, in December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations produced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaiming that dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human race are the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace in the world. This milestone is now celebrated worldwide every December as Universal Human Rights Month; and

WHEREAS, Universal Human Rights Month is a time to reflect on the way we treat others, and to do what we can in the fight for equality among people of different races, religions, cultures, and beliefs, including individuals with an intellectual disability or autism; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs supports over 59,000 individuals with an intellectual disability or autism across the commonwealth and is committed to ensuring that they have the same rights as all other members of the community; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the combined efforts of the Office of Developmental Programs families, parents, friends, advocates, and service providers, the numbers of individuals with an intellectual disability or autism who vote, who were offered a choice about where to live and who to live with, and who self-direct how their services and supports are provided has consistently increased over the past four years; and

WHEREAS, in February 2020, the Office of Developmental Programs released new and expanded regulations that promote and protect individuals' civil and legal rights, including the right to be free of discrimination, the right to vote, the right to speak freely, the right to be treated with dignity and respect, and the right to control all aspects of their daily lives. The application and enforcement of these regulations will advance the Office of Developmental Programs' efforts to ensure that individuals with an intellectual disability or autism have the same freedom to exercise their rights as that of all citizens.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim December 2020 as UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH and December 10, 2020 as HUMAN RIGHTS DAY. I encourage all citizens to continue to raise awareness for this cause.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the city of Harrisburg, this tenth of December two thousand twenty, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-fifth.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor