



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, New York State joins with the entire nation each October to celebrate and promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and takes this opportunity to recognize the abilities, talents, and contributions of individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, the Empire State also seeks to provide innovations in financial and health care systems and collaborates with many partners to help individuals with disabilities live full, productive lives; and

Whereas, New York's government agencies that serve individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities, and individuals with mental health disabilities, have affirmed the state's commitment to community living by developing implementation plans which include collaboration among many partners that will foster greater independence for individuals with disabilities and the creation of more employment options; and

Whereas, the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs assures that people with disabilities will be protected from abuse and neglect, protects their rights, and advocates for opportunities for individuals to become fully engaged in all aspects of community life, including employment; and

Whereas, New York State's government, community agencies, and advocacy organizations continuously strive to improve coordination across vocational rehabilitation and employment programs to increase employment, career advancement, and entrepreneurship opportunities for individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. 136 created the New York State Employment First Commission to establish an Employment First Policy which working with government, community agencies, and advocacy organizations will: increase the employment rate of New Yorkers with disabilities receiving services by five percent; decrease the poverty rate of New Yorkers with disabilities receiving services by five percent; and register 100 businesses as having formal policies to include people with disabilities in the workforce development strategies by hiring qualified workers, and through the development of inclusive workforce environments; and

Whereas, New York reaffirms its commitment to promoting diversity in the workplace by highlighting the rich talent and abilities that exist among New Yorkers and promoting inclusive communities that welcome individuals with all types of disabilities; and

Whereas, entrepreneurs and professionals in various fields including health, education, vocational rehabilitation, independent living, transportation, and rehabilitation engineering are working with individuals with disabilities and their families, community leaders, service providers, employers, and organized labor to expand the range of choices in services and support programs to empower people with disabilities to secure employment in their field of interest, including self-employment; and

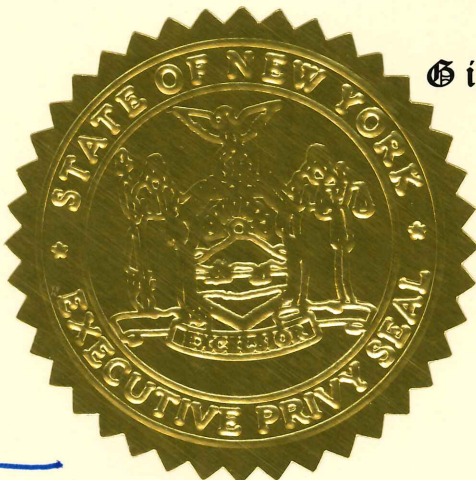
Whereas, the creation and promotion of public-private partnerships is one of the most effective means to support New Yorkers with disabilities in pursuing their career goals so they may achieve greater personal and financial independence; businesses in New York State recognize the value of a talented and diverse workforce in maintaining their competitiveness and reflecting the communities they serve, and provide opportunities for training, employment, and advancement of individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, it is fitting that New York State participate in this month-long observance and embrace its theme – "America's Workforce: Empowering All," – encouraging workplaces to welcome the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, as a critical part of our commitment to building a more inclusive work culture and more inclusive communities across this state;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2018 as

## DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirtieth day of August in the year two thousand and eighteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor  
Melissa DeRosa