



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH
October 2018**

WHEREAS, workplaces that welcome the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and strong economy; and

WHEREAS, in this spirit, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, is recognizing National Disability Month this October to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, activities during this month will reinforce the value and talent people with disabilities add to our workplaces and communities and affirm Pennsylvania's commitment to be an inclusive community; and

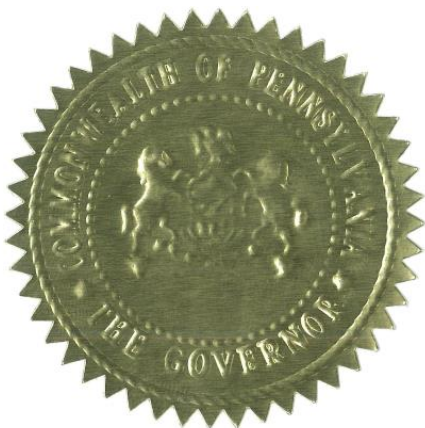
WHEREAS, the national unemployment rate for people with disabilities was 8 percent, compared to 3.8 percent for people without disabilities, and Pennsylvanians with disabilities, including Pennsylvania's veterans, have proven to be valuable employees who contribute positively to the bottom line of companies for whom they work; and

WHEREAS, through the Business Services and Outreach Division of the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the "Hiring People with Disabilities How-To Guide," Pennsylvania businesses are encouraged to employ people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in June 2018, I signed House Bill 1641, codifying the Employment First policy that I established in 2016 by executive order to ensure that Pennsylvania is hospitable to workers with disabilities, and that people with disabilities can achieve greater independence and inclusion in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania continues to promote awareness about disability employment through its annual Pennsylvania Disability Employment and Empowerment Summit, an event that brings together employers, individuals with disabilities, advocates, service providers, and government officials to discuss employment issues and provide information about programs and services that will enhance the quality of life for Pennsylvania's with disabilities.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 2018 as DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to provide their support in hiring and retaining workers with disabilities.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty seventh day of September two thousand eighteen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-third.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor