



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS WEEKS

WHEREAS, Disability History and Awareness Weeks were created to highlight the efforts, and important contributions and achievements of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Florida continues to foster economic growth through the development of a talented and diverse labor force, and the active and meaningful participation of individuals with disabilities as students, parents, employees, employers and policy-makers is essential to providing equal opportunity to all Floridians; and

WHEREAS, during the 2016-17 school year, there were more than 300,000 students with disabilities enrolled in the K-12 Education System, more than 20,000 students with disabilities enrolled in the Florida College System and more than 14,000 students with disabilities enrolled in the State University System; and

WHEREAS, in 2016-17, the Division of Career and Adult Education enrolled more than 8,000 adults with disabilities in Adult General Education and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education programs and more than 100,000 students with disabilities in Secondary Career and Technical Education programs; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation helps individuals with disabilities become part of America's workforce, and in 2016-17, served 45,877 Floridians and assisted another 5,975 in finding or keeping jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Division of Blind Services (DBS) is dedicated to ensuring that Floridians who are blind or have a visual impairment have the tools, supports and opportunities to achieve success, and in 2016-17, DBS helped 854 individuals achieve successful employment outcomes and another 10,614 received assistance to become more successful in school, community and work; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the DBS Bureau of Business Enterprises, composed of 122 blind facility managers, has employed 225 Floridians generating taxable gross sales totaling more than \$22 million and the Braille and Talking Book Library served more than 31,000 active readers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Youth Council, a group of youth and emerging leaders with disabilities that advocated for the creation of Disability History and Awareness Weeks, remains dedicated to ensuring that all youth within the state of Florida are empowered to realize their potential, and are educated regarding the history of individuals with disabilities and the positive examples represented by their valuable contributions to their communities; and

WHEREAS, it is important to continue encouraging individuals with disabilities to realize their abilities in their education, employment and communities, and reaffirm our commitment to the full inclusion of and equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing *Disability History and Awareness Weeks* during the first two weeks in October.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 28th day of September, in the year two thousand seventeen.



Governor