State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Autism Awareness Day

WHEREAS, autism is a general term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders – autism spectrum disorders – caused by a combination of genes and environmental influences, and these disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by social and behavioral challenges, as well as repetitive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1 in 88 children in the U.S. is on the autism spectrum – a 600 percent increase in the past two decades that is only partly explained by improved diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have called autism a national public health crisis whose cause and cure remain unknown; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2007 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 62/139 World Autism Awareness Day by unanimous consent, encouraging UN Member States to take measures to raise awareness about autism throughout society and to promote early diagnosis and early behavioral intervention; and

WHEREAS, the resolution designates World Autism Awareness Day as a United Nations Day to be observed every year starting in 2008 to raise global awareness of autism; and

WHEREAS, the aims for World Autism Awareness Day are to inform the general public about the global health crisis of autism, stress the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention, and to celebrate the unique talents and qualities of individuals with autism; and

WHEREAS, autism is a lifelong condition in which the bulk of cost falls in adulthood, creating an enormous economic impact; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2013 Autism Awareness Day in Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 4th day of April, 2013

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State