STATE OF OREGON

PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS: Nationwide over 5.2 million people have developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS: Nearly 67,000 adults and children in Oregon have developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS: Oregonians with and without disabilities from all racial and cultural backgrounds live and work side by side across Oregon to form strong, communities; and

WHEREAS: Differences are celebrated and every person belongs, has valuable strengths, infinite capacity to thrive, and the potential to make important contributions to their communities; and

WHEREAS: People with developmental disabilities in Oregon share, with the state's 4.2 million residents, a vision to live full lives that include opportunities for competitive, integrated employment, safe and accessible housing, meaningful relationships and access to physical and mental health care, and the many wonderful resources we all share; and

WHEREAS: Families of people with developmental disabilities deserve recognition for their commitment to helping their family member achieve that vision for a full life as an independent and contributing member of their community; and

WHEREAS: "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" is an appropriate time to recognize Oregon's public policy accomplishments on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities and also to identify and make needed changes to public policy to fully include all Oregonians in sustaining and creating community, opportunity, and progress in this beautiful state we all call home; and

WHEREAS: Oregonians with developmental disabilities are present in all spaces where decisions are made that impact them, reinforcing a core value of the intellectual and developmental disability community: "Nothing About Us Without Us."

NOW, THEREFORE: I, Tina Kotek, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim March 2026 to be

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day February 26, 2026.

Tina Kotek, Governor

Tobias Read, Secretary of State