



Proclamation for Profound Autism Day

The definition of autism has evolved over the years, creating an increasingly heterogeneous spectrum. While the entire spectrum deserves recognition and support, profound autism is a term intended to provide clarification about the autistic people who require 24/7 care from an adult caregiver throughout their lives. People with profound autism also can have a severe intellectual disability or have minimal or no language. They are frequently excluded from research and support programs because of their unique needs.

The Centers for Disease Control released their first prevalence study on profound autism in April 2023. The research concluded that the percentage of 8-year-old children with profound autism among those with autism in the United States was 26.7%. This means that 1 in 4 children with autism have profound autism. Compared with children with non-profound autism, children with profound autism were more likely to be female, from racial and ethnic minority groups, of low socioeconomic status, born preterm or with low birth weight, have self-injurious behaviors, have seizure disorders, and have lower adaptive scores.

People with profound autism and those who care for them live in our midst, frequently in isolation, and need our inclusion and support. Specific consideration of their unique challenges is critical.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____ by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State/Commonwealth of _____, do hereby proclaim March 17, 2026 as Profound Autism Day.