



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS WEEK

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 2014–2015 school year, there were 357,067 students with disabilities enrolled in the K–12 Education System, 20,591 students enrolled in the Florida College System, and over 12,000 students enrolled in the State University System who reported having a disability; and

WHEREAS, in 2013–2014, the Division of Career and Adult Education enrolled 9,378 adults with disabilities in Adult General Education and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Programs and 101,825 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 2014–2015 served more than 39,207 Floridians and assisted another 5,760 in finding or keeping jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Division of Blind Services (DBS) is dedicated to ensuring that Floridians who are blind or visually impaired have the tools, support, and opportunity to achieve success, and helped 10,499 to become more successful in school, community, and work; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the DBS Bureau of Business Enterprises is comprised of 146 facilities and 120 licensed blind operators, and has employed 300 Floridians; 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 greetings and commendations to all observing *Disability History and Awareness Weeks* during the first two weeks in October, and I call on all citizens of Florida to celebrate the many contributions individuals with disabilities make to Florida, to our nation, and to the world.



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 July, in the year two thousand fifteen.

A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the word "Governor" is printed.