



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Proclamation

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2026 AS NATIONAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

WHEREAS, April is recognized nationally as Autism Acceptance Month, a time to celebrate the contributions, talents, and perspectives of autistic individuals and to advance a more inclusive and understanding community; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental condition that affects an estimated one in 36 children in the United States, and millions of autistic individuals and their families reside and thrive in Arapahoe County; and

WHEREAS, autistic individuals enrich our communities through their unique perspectives, talents, and contributions to the arts, sciences, business, and civic life; and

WHEREAS, acceptance and inclusion are essential to ensuring that autistic individuals have every opportunity to lead fulfilling, self-determined lives and to participate fully in the social, educational, and economic fabric of our county; and

WHEREAS, families, caregivers, educators, healthcare providers, employers, and advocates across Arapahoe County work tirelessly to create environments where autistic individuals are understood, respected, and supported; and

WHEREAS, to better serve those in our community who are on the autism spectrum, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office recently launched the Blue Envelope Program, an initiative designed to improve interactions between first responders and individuals with conditions that may affect communication such as autism, anxiety, or dementia; and

WHEREAS, Arapahoe County is committed to fostering a community that values neurodiversity and recognizes that differences in how people think, communicate, and experience the world strengthen us all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners does hereby designate the month of April 2026 as **National Autism Acceptance Month** in Arapahoe County, and calls upon all residents, businesses, and organizations to embrace acceptance, promote inclusion, and celebrate the autistic individuals in our community.

Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully

Commissioner Jessica Campbell

Commissioner Leslie Summey
Chair of the Board

Commissioner Jeff Baker
Chair Pro Tem

Commissioner Rhonda Fields