



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Public Law 176, enacted by Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October as “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week;” and in 1988, Congress changed the name to “National Disability Employment Awareness Month”; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians with disabilities represent a significant percentage of the state’s population, and experience disproportionately high levels of unemployment, dependence, and poverty; and

WHEREAS, many North Carolinians with disabilities have the ability and desire to seek employment in settings that provide opportunities to earn competitive wages and benefits, reach their maximum potential, achieve economic self-sufficiency, and contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians with disabilities have a positive impact on the economy by earning wages, purchasing goods and services in their communities, and becoming self-supporting; and

WHEREAS, workplaces embracing diversity by welcoming the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, are a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and strong economy, proving that inclusion drives innovation; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina supports and encourages individuals with disabilities to find employment, thus fostering the key objectives of advancing individual well-being and reducing the demand on public resources, which can then be reallocated to those with the most significant needs; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the State of North Carolina and local government, the business community, and the general public, individuals and their families benefit greatly from increased employment of people with disabilities and share the responsibility in achieving this goal; and

WHEREAS, successfully achieving this goal requires providing appropriate training, advancing best practices, and engaging the business community through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; the Division of Services for the Blind; the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services; the Council on Developmental Disabilities; the Department of Public Instruction; the Community College System; the University of North Carolina System; the Department of Commerce through NCWorks; and other State of North Carolina and non-profit entities in the form of counseling, education, job training and placement, transportation, assistive technology and other support services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October, 2017, as “**DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twentieth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.