



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH**

**2018**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month began in 1945, when United States Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1962, the word “physically” was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities, and in 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate people about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America’s workers with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the national theme for Disability Employment Awareness Month 2018 is *America’s Workforce: Empowering All*; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, North Carolina’s unemployment rate was 4.4 percent for the general population and 19.8 percent for people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, within the Department of Health and Human Services, provides counseling, training, education, transportation, job placement, assistive technology, and other support services to people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is an opportunity to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities; activities throughout our state during October will highlight the value and talent people with disabilities add to our workplaces and communities and affirm North Carolina’s commitment to inclusivity; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina celebrates the contributions of individuals with disabilities and continues to support their full integration into our workforce and communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October, 2018, 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 twenty-sixth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.