

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL, 2019 AS

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, autism defined as a developmental disorder that can impair social, communication and behavioral skills, autism is a spectrum disorder that can range in severity from person to person; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.5 million people have the condition in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, California's Department of Developmental Services counted 3,262 consumers with substantial autism. Today, there are more than 80,000 (2015 DDS data); and

WHEREAS, in our state, the rate of substantially disabling autism (a number that does not include those with milder forms) has soared 2,800% during this period. That means that where there was one person with autism in the early 1980s there are now 28. (Source: DDS.); and

WHEREAS, in the Bay Area, we have more than 12,000 individuals with substantially disabling ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) served by local Regional Centers, not including those with multiple diagnoses, including (2015 numbers); and

WHEREAS, each year in the Bay Area, hundreds of people with substantially disabling ASD "age out" of the school system, and need to locate new day or supported employment programs; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, adults with ASD are also usually too impoverished to income-qualify for the few low-income set-aside units that may become available from time to time; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates April, 2019 as Autism Awareness Month and encourages all citizens to recognize and participate in this campaign to increase awareness and to support individuals living with Autism.

Dated: April 9, 2019

SUPERVISORS:

CAROLE GROOM, PRESIDENT

DAVE PINE

DON HORSLEY

WARREN SLOCUM

DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors