

# PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL, 2019 AS  
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## AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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**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:**

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**CAROLE GROOM, PRESIDENT**

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**DAVE PINE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DON HORSLEY**

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**WARREN SLOCUM**

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**DAVID J. CANEPA**

*Attest:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors*