

I Light It Up Blue

(Location)

For Everyone with Autism!



 **AUTISM SPEAKS®**

#Governors4LIUB

#LIUB



**2015 World Autism Awareness Day &
Autism Awareness Month Proclamation**

WHEREAS, autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than three million people, is an urgent public health crisis that demands a national response; and,

WHEREAS, autism is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the human brain, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and,

WHEREAS, symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal as well as nonverbal communication; and,

WHEREAS, the effort to address autism continues, doctors, therapists, and educators can help persons with autism overcome or adjust to its challenges and provide early, accurate diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education, intervention, and therapy that are vital to future growth and development; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring that persons living with autism have access to the lifelong care and services needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and achieve their greatest potential; and,

WHEREAS, The [CITY/STATE] of [NAME OF CITY/STATE] is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Awareness Day in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder; and,

*THEREFORE, I, [NAME AND TITLE], do hereby proclaim April 2015 as **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** and April 2, 2015 as **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY** in [NAME OF CITY/STATE] to raise public awareness of autism and the myriad of issues surrounding autism, as well as to increase knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.*

February 17, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

On April 2, 2015, people across the country and around the globe will commemorate World Autism Awareness Day, sanctioned by the United Nations in 2007. It is a day of promise and a time for us to lend our hearts and minds to all who live with autism.

As part of this global effort, Autism Speaks is especially proud to sponsor the sixth annual Light It Up Blue campaign. This year we celebrate ten years of progress as the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization. Light It Up Blue is a global initiative aiming to increase autism awareness by, quite literally, lighting the world up blue. We would be honored to have the great state of South Carolina participate.

Last year, over 10,000 iconic buildings, businesses, and homes, spread over every continent, lit up blue. This included dozens of major city halls, state capitol buildings, and governors' mansions in the U.S. as well as numerous landmarks such as the South Pole, Empire State Building, and even the International Space Station!

This April, we plan to expand our reach to raise awareness about autism and light up even more buildings around the globe. There are a few ways you can help:

1. We are asking that you consider participating in Light It Up Blue by lighting up the Capitol Building of South Carolina, the Governor's Mansion, or another governmental building in blue lights. Please visit www.rosco.com/LIUB for information on commercial lighting options or feel free to contact Alison Dyer at the email address below.
2. We are requesting that you issue a Proclamation to declare April 2, 2015 as Autism Awareness Day and April 2015 as Autism Awareness Month in South Carolina. We have volunteers who live in your state that are in the process of submitting a request for the Proclamation through your office.
3. We would be so honored if you would post a message and picture of support of autism awareness on Facebook or Twitter on April 2, 2015 using the following hashtags: **#Governors4LIUB** and **#LIUB**

Included for your reference is an information sheet about Light It Up Blue as well as a sample proclamation for you to consider issuing on April 2, 2015. Please visit www.autismspeaks.org/LIUB to register and see a full list of participating buildings.

Thank you so much for your leadership and consideration of our historic event! We would be grateful for your participation this year as we raise awareness about this cause that affects nearly three million people of all ages. If you have any questions or would like more information on how you can participate in Light It Up Blue, please email Alison Dyer at Alison.Dyer@autismspeaks.org.

Warmest Regards,



Liz Feld,
President, Autism Speaks