



February 17, 2016

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

Dear Governor Haley,

On April 2, 2016, people across the country and around the globe will commemorate World Autism Awareness Day, as declared 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 proud to sponsor the seventh annual Light It Up Blue campaign. Last year we celebrated 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 15,000 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:

- ✦ 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 Luke Smyth at the email address below.
- ✦ We are requesting that you issue a Proclamation to declare April 2, 2016, as Autism Awareness Day and April 2016 as Autism Awareness Month in South Carolina. We have volunteers who live in your state who are submitting a request for the Proclamation through your office.
- ✦ 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, 2016 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, 2016. Please have your staff 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 in the U.S. If you have any questions or would like more information on how you can participate in Light It Up Blue, please email Luke Smyth at luke.smyth@autismspeaks.org.

Warmest Regards,

Angela Timashenka Geiger,
President and CEO, Autism Speaks