



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the 2016 American Community Survey reveals that 42.7 percent of disabled Coloradans from 18 to 64 years old are employed compared to 79.7 percent of those without disabilities. That 37 percentage point employment gap in the labor force underscores the importance of getting Coloradans with disabilities more fully engaged in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, October is designated as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It is a time to raise public awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the many contributions of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is "America's Workforce: Empowering All." It conveys the important message that people with disabilities have much to offer any business. When employers create a culture of belonging, the dividends that are paid back to the company are significant; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are the sum of many parts, including their work experiences. Their disability is an important perspective that they bring to the workforce, but it is not the only one; and

WHEREAS, Disability Employment Awareness Month urges our employers to focus on the ability, not the disability, and it affirms Colorado's commitment to a diverse workforce; and

WHEREAS, Colorado employers that connect with this often untapped community are making a valuable investment. It is an investment that provides a pipeline of skilled workers. It is an investment that builds independent and productive lives, an investment that strengthens Colorado.

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, October 2018, as

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of October, 2018



John W. Hickenlooper
John W. Hickenlooper
Governor