

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the month of April is recognized as “Autism Awareness Month” and April 2 is recognized as “World Autism Day,” recognitions which focus on autism as a public health crisis and provide an opportunity for a conversation to improve the future for everyone who struggles with autism spectrum disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys; there is no medical detection or cure and it is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States; autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that inhibits a person’s ability to communicate and develop social relationships, and is often accompanied by behavioral challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, Autism Speaks was founded in February 2005 by Bob & Suzanne Wright, grandparents of a child with autism; the group’s mission is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders and assist with funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; it also works to raise public awareness about autism, and bring hope to all who deal with the hardships of the disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, ABOARDS’s Autism Connection of PA offers autism support to parents, including autism support groups, resources, conferences and events; it also provides information on the signs and symptoms of autism, getting an autism diagnosis, and applying for medical assistance and health insurance; each member of the organization’s staff is a parent of a child with autism or a related disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, Allegheny County is thankful for the resources and help that Autism Speaks and ABOARD’s Autism Connection of PA have been to our residents, and we thank their boards and staff for their hard work and dedication.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as “Autism Awareness Month” and April 2, 2015 as “World Autism Day” in Allegheny County. In support of those who are affected by autism, the Courthouse will be bathed in blue light throughout the month.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2015.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

Rich Fitzgerald