



Bill Walker
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

March 2, 2018

WHEREAS, March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness month nationwide; and

WHEREAS, there is estimated to be over 11,500 Alaskans who experience a developmental disability; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and understanding are valuable ways to address the challenges associated with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, March 1st and 2nd is the 31st Annual Key Campaign, and hundreds of Alaskans with developmental disabilities, family members, and friends gather in Juneau, and communities around the state, in support of home- and community-based services, and to share a vision for the future of the Developmental Disability System in Alaska, stated as follows:

“Alaskans share a vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job and their community. Our vision includes supported families, professional staff and services available throughout the state now and into the future”; and

WHEREAS, this shared vision maintains five important values and priorities: every person directs their own supports, services will support lives with meaning, our system values the role of direct-support professionals, our system is flexible and simple, and our system uses resources wisely and measures outcomes focused on quality of life; and

WHEREAS, we recognize advocates and leaders who have sought to bring people with disabilities into the conversation, like Jim Balamaci, CEO and President of Special Olympics, and an icon in the world of developmental disabilities in Alaska, who died suddenly on February 1, 2018.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim March 2018 as:

Developmental Disability Awareness Month

in Alaska, and in honor of Jim Balamaci, I ask all Alaskans to celebrate and support the diversity and capabilities of all our citizens, particularly those who experience developmental disabilities.