

**WHEREAS,** Autism is a developmental disability that often appears during early childhood and can inhibit a person’s ability to communicate and interact with others, can affect fine and gross motor skills as well as atypical responses to sensory input throughout the lifespan, yet many are highly talented and add greatly to our communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Recently updated, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than 2% of adults in the U.S. are on the autism spectrum and that approximately four times more boys are diagnosed than girls, and occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socio-economic groups: and

**WHEREAS,** People with autism will spend three-quarters of their lives as adults, yet the focus of autism research has been largely focused on their childhood; and

**WHEREAS,** When autistic children age out of school at age 21, 85% will be unemployed or underemployed, most will become isolated, and their hard won progress in navigating our world often becomes lost without our support; and

**WHEREAS,** Autistic adults have unique talents and abilities and, with support, can make invaluable contributions to employers and our community; and

**WHEREAS,** Initiated by Madison House Autism Foundation, the Autism After 21 movement began in 2016 and April 21st was designated as Autism After 21 Day in order to increase awareness and understanding for the 2% of the population on the autism spectrum, the hundreds of thousands of undiagnosed adults on the autism spectrum and the millions of family members supporting loved ones on the autism spectrum; and

**WHEREAS,** With the support of the “YOUR COUNTY/CITY/STATE OFFICE,” a local Autism After 21 initiative can significantly create more action, awareness, acceptance and opportunities for autistic adults in “YOUR COUNTY/CITY/STATE” and across the country; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE DECLARE,** the “YOUR COUNTY/CITY/STATE OFFICE” hereby proclaim April 21, 2020 as

## **AUTISM AFTER 21 DAY**

in “YOUR COUNTY/CITY/STATE” . We acknowledge there are autistic adults in our community and support their full inclusion in our community.

