STATE OF NEBRASKA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *People with intellectual and developmental disabilities enrich the communities in which they live, work, worship, attend school, play, and volunteer by making important contributions and providing a strong voice for inclusion in all areas of life; and*

WHEREAS, *When people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are included in the person-centered planning process, they determine the choices and decisions about their lives, further increasing their contributions to their communities; and*

WHEREAS, *People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have taken great leadership during this coronavirus pandemic to support each other to feel less isolated and to keep each other informed, safe, and healthy as they are at a greater risk of infection and mortality due to COVID-19; and*

WHEREAS, *Although they face many barriers, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those who support them continue their steadfast work to ensure that they are afforded the same rights and privileges to fully participate in all aspects of life, and to obtain adequate health care, meaningful employment, and equal opportunities for community inclusion and integration.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the month of March 2021 as*

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

in Nebraska and I do hereby proclaim that individuals with developmental disabilities are valued members of their communities and the state and urge all citizens to embrace, support, and befriend persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Eighteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-one.

Attest:

Secretary of State

Governor