



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, more than 7 million Americans live with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD), like cerebral palsy, autism and Down Syndrome, including an estimated 56,800 to 113,600 Colorado citizens; and

WHEREAS, people with IDD incur their disabilities during the developmental period, or before the age of 22, and most people with IDD need support of some kind throughout their entire lifespan; and

WHEREAS, the two organizations serving children, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in southwest Colorado's five counties, including Archuleta County, are Community Connections, since 1985, and The Arc of Southwest Colorado, since 2014; and

WHEREAS, Community Connections serves 30 children and adults and The Arc of Southwest Colorado serves 2 children in Archuleta County, in addition to those individuals who live and function outside a formal service system or are waiting for services; and

WHEREAS, both organizations believe that all people have inherent value with innate abilities and strengths and are equal before the law, and individuals living with a developmental disability deserve to have the same opportunities - to live, love, learn, work and play in their communities - with the dignity, choices, and responsibilities accorded to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Archuleta County residents with developmental disabilities are able to live self-determined and meaningful lives due to supports provided by family members, Direct Support Professionals at local community-centered boards like Community Connections, and organizations like The Arc of southwest Colorado; and

WHEREAS, historically, people with IDD were largely segregated in institutions, and today, they continue to experience significant barriers to integration, employment, health care, education, housing, and other aspects of community life compared to people without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month and public awareness and education enhances a community's understanding of its members living with an intellectual or developmental disability and becoming fully integrated into their community; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant demand across Colorado for supports for individuals with developmental disabilities, and a multiple-year waiting list of 3,000 for services that includes individuals in Archuleta County.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Archuleta County, Colorado, do hereby proclaim March 19th as the day in 2019 Archuleta County recognizes Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and urges all citizens to give full support of efforts to enable people with developmental disabilities to live full and productive lives of inclusion in our communities.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO

Ronnie Maez, Chairman

ATTEST

Mary Helminski,
Deputy County Clerk and Recorder