



**Dustin J. Williams**  
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## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person’s social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a “spectrum condition” that affects people differently and to varying degrees. According to the latest findings from the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (ADDSP), about 1 in 40 8-year-old children in an area of Arizona were identified with ASD; and

**WHEREAS**, during the month of April, we recognize individuals and families affected by ASD in Southern Arizona. We are dedicated to promoting autism acceptance, inclusion, and self-determination for autistic individuals. Individuals with ASD should be given equal opportunities to achieve their highest potential; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1994, the Autism Society of Southern Arizona (ASSA) and other affiliates of the Autism Society have led our communities to increase awareness, offer support, education, resources, advocacy, programs, information and referral; and

**WHEREAS**, shining a light on ASD will provide new opportunities for Pima County to consider how they can pave the way for acceptance. Through increased awareness, we can strive to eliminate stigma and create opportunities for individuals with autism to find connections in their community so they can thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, research supports that early diagnosis can lead to improved quality of life. Learning a child’s developmental milestones and understanding the signs of ASD are imperative for parents. Early intervention services from birth to 3-years-old can lead to improved outcomes for children with autism; and

**WHEREAS**, through increased acceptance, we can reach our goals to become a more inclusive society for individuals with autism to find connections in their community so they can thrive.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the month of April 2022 to be:

**“AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH IN PIMA COUNTY”**

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 15th day of March 2022.

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The Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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Melissa Manriquez, Clerk  
Pima County Board of Supervisors