

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## Governor's Office

### PROCLAMATION

#### INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH March 2011

*WHEREAS, The term "intellectual disability" is the current terminology for what has been known as "mental retardation" and is now commonly accepted by advocates, self advocates, and professionals; and*

*WHEREAS, an intellectual disability is defined as a disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills, which originates before age 21; and*

*WHEREAS, people with intellectual disabilities cut across the lines of racial, ethnic, educational, social, and economic backgrounds; and*

*WHEREAS, people with intellectual disabilities are valued members of society—our friends, neighbors, and co-workers—who find fulfillment living every day lives; and*

*WHEREAS, early intervention, education, and home and community-based services continue to be vital to enabling citizens with intellectual disabilities to function and thrive.*

*THEREFORE, In order to recognize the many contributions and challenges of citizens with intellectual disabilities, I, Tom Corbett, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim March 2011 as INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH in Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens to support the efforts and hard work of Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities and their families as they strive to live self-determined lives and realize their own personal aspirations.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this eighteenth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-fifth.*



*Tom Corbett*  
TOM CORBETT  
Governor