Texas is an undisputed economic leader with a remarkable job creation record, providing opportunities for all to better themselves and their families. Our state is also home to a world-class workforce — one in which individuals with disabilities play a critical role.

The Lone Star State continues to benefit from an integrated workforce where people with and without disabilities work side by side. Businesses that hire, retain and include people with disabilities continue to discover that a strong workforce is an inclusive workforce. The perspective and creativity of people with disabilities benefit employers who acknowledge each person's unique strengths and talents. Employment also helps Texans with disabilities pursue their full potential for independence in their communities.

Each October, an awareness campaign is conducted to support equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities also presents the annual Lex Frieden Employment Awards, named for the disability rights champion instrumental in the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act. These awards recognize businesses, individuals and organizations dedicated to maintaining an inclusive workforce. This year's recipients are Brian East of Disability Rights Texas, Austin; Thomas R. Schenck, Fort Worth; Bank of America; Home Depot, Keller; Sign Shares Inc. International, Houston; Texas State Independent Living Council, Austin; and the Greater Houston Business Leadership Network.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to recognize the strengths that people with disabilities can bring to our workforce, our community and our state as a whole.
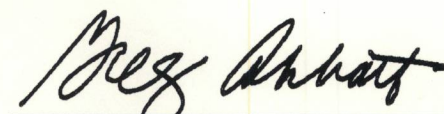
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim October 2015 to be

Disability Employment Awareness Month

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 28th day of September, 2015.

Governor of Texas