

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, The State of Vermont recognizes the value and capabilities of its workforce, including people with disabilities, and has a strong commitment to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, There are over 46,000 Vermonters of adult working age who have a disability, constituting over 11% of the State's working age population, and

WHEREAS, Only 34% of working age Vermonters with disabilities are employed, as compared to 80% of Vermonters without disabilities, and

WHEREAS, Vermonters with disabilities want to work, companies can be more profitable when they hire people with disabilities, and we can save tax money and make our state stronger by including people with disabilities in the workforce, and

WHEREAS, The State of Vermont recognizes the need to continue to expand employment opportunities that will benefit both the business community and employees of all abilities, and

WHEREAS, In this spirit, the State of Vermont is recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month to raise awareness about disability employment issues and to celebrate the many gifts, talents and contributions of people with disabilities to our workplaces and communities and affirm Vermont's commitment to an inclusive community.

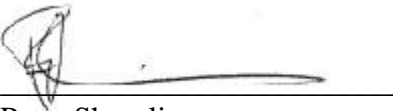
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim October 2013 as

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

In Vermont and call upon employers, schools and other community organizations in Vermont to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to advance its important message of "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task," throughout the year.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this ____ day of September, A.D. 2013.


Peter Shumlin
Governor