

## PROCLAMATION

### AUTISM AWARENESS

*WHEREAS*, Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. It is part of a group of disorders known as autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and;

*WHEREAS*, 1 in 88 children is diagnosed with autism; 1 in 250 girls and 1 in 54 boys is on the autism spectrum; making boys nearly five times more likely than girls to have Autism and a new case is diagnosed almost every 15 minutes; and

*WHEREAS*, more children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined, the Autism prevalence figures are growing, making Autism the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.; and

*WHEREAS*, 1 in 67 military families will have a child who is diagnosed with autism; and

*WHEREAS*, autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States, costing the nation over \$100 billion per year, a figure expected to double in the next decade. Despite these statistics Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases, likely costing a family \$60,000 per year on average; and

*WHEREAS*, there is no medical detection or cure for autism.

*NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN*, that the Town of Simsbury joins with Autism Speaks in designating the month of April 2013 as Autism Awareness Month to enhance the understanding of Autism and to encourage participation in voluntary activities to support education programs and the funding of research programs to find a cure. The Town of Simsbury will participate by placing a blue light at Eno Memorial Hall for the month of April.

*IN WITNESS THEREOF*, I have placed my seal and the great seal of the Town of Simsbury.

Dated the 1st day of April, 2013.

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Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman