

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation by Governor Bill Walker*

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities are defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as “a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas;” and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 13,500 Alaskans experience a developmental disability, which can be manifested by substantial functional limitations in several areas of life, including self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, independent living, and economic self-efficiency; and

WHEREAS, each year in early March, hundreds of Alaskans with developmental disabilities, family members, and friends gather for the Key Campaign in Juneau, and communities around the state to support home and community based services; and

WHEREAS, 2017 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Key Campaign, and the first since losing an outstanding leader, advocate, and visionary, Stephen P. Lesko, who died unexpectedly on May 29, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the developmental disabilities community in Alaska has come together to share a vision for the future of the developmental disability system in Alaska, in which each person directs his or her own supports, based on the individual’s strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in his or her home, job, and community; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education and developmental disability advocates and providers around the state are working to support families and make services available now and into the future; and

WHEREAS, we appreciate the contributions of individuals and organizations to make a lasting impact and address the challenges of Alaskans with developmental disabilities, especially in light of the challenging fiscal situation facing Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim March 2017 as:

### *Developmental Disability Awareness Month*

in Alaska, in honor of Stephen P. Lesko, an exemplary leader and friend, and I encourage all Alaskans to celebrate and support the diversity and abilities of all our citizens, particularly those who experience developmental disabilities.

Dated: February 21, 2017



A blue ink signature of Bill Walker.

*Bill Walker, Governor  
who has also authorized the  
seal of the State of Alaska to  
be affixed to this proclamation.*