



NAVAJO NATION PROCLAMATION

Declaring the Third Week of October As *Navajo Nation Disability Awareness Week*

WHEREAS, all of our Navajo People deserve to have the same and equal opportunity to live and work with dignity and freedom. Almost 30% of our Navajo people have a disability and this number rises to over 70% of the Navajo population for our elders who are 65 and older. Despite their contributions to our society, people with disabilities face discrimination and limited access. This Administration will work to strengthen protections against disability-based discriminations. Our people should not fear discrimination in disclosing one's disability; and

WHEREAS, October is recognized nationally as Disability Employment Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2005, the Navajo Nation Council established the Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities to advocate for individuals with disabilities to ensure equal access to employment, education, housing, public safety, communications, recreation, medical treatment, and socialization opportunities; and

WHEREAS, we are stronger as a Nation together and together, we must work to remove obstacles so every Navajo and person has the opportunity to fully utilize their talents and skills in the workplace and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RUSSELL BEGAYE, President of the Navajo Nation and I, JONATHAN NEZ, Vice President of the Navajo Nation do hereby proclaim the third week of October as the Navajo Nation Disability Awareness Week. I urge all Navajo leaders, employees and citizens to be involved and participate in planned events and activities to learn about the needs, issues, and successes of our Navajo people with disabilities.

PROCLAIMED THIS 20TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2015

Handwritten signature of Russell Begaye in black ink.

Russell Begaye, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Nez in black ink.

Jonathan Nez, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION