

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** according to the U.S. Census, approximately 56.7 million people – 19 percent of the United States population – have a disability; and
- WHEREAS,** many of these individuals with disabilities rely upon federal benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income to foster their independence, maintain their health, support their employment, participate in their communities and enhance their quality of life; and
- WHEREAS,** prior to the passage of the federal Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in 2014 and Vermont’s enabling ABLE legislation in 2015, millions of individuals with disabilities were unable to save more than \$2,000 in assets without jeopardizing their eligibility for these critical federal benefits; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 20 states have established ABLE programs where millions of individuals with disabilities can save money in a tax-exempt “ABLE” account that does not count towards the \$2,000 asset cap; and
- WHEREAS,** many individuals with disabilities and their families are unaware of the life-changing potential of ABLE accounts or are misinformed about the rules regarding these accounts; and
- WHEREAS,** the ABLE National Resource Center (ANRC), a collaborative of more than 25 national disability organizations whose goal is to provide consistent, reliable information concerning the benefits of an ABLE account, has developed a nationwide campaign, AbleToSave, to educate individuals with disabilities and their families, the financial sector and other stakeholders about ABLE’s potential positive impact on the lives of millions of Americans with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** the state of Vermont launched VermontABLE.com and Vermont ABLE on February 22, 2017; and
- WHEREAS,** people with disabilities have expenses related to their disability that may not be covered by public benefits, such as home modification, assistive technology, adaptive transportation, or community-based supports; and
- WHEREAS,** the goal of the AbleToSave campaign is to enhance awareness of ABLE accounts as a financial savings tool and to increase the amount of ABLE accounts opened throughout the country and in Vermont; and

WHEREAS,

the establishment of AbleToSave month will encourage Vermonters who experience a disability to utilize ABLE to save for qualifying disability-related expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim August 2017 as

ABLEToSAVE MONTH

in Vermont, and encourage our citizens to work together to enhance awareness of ABLE accounts.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of August, A.D. 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs