

**County of Tioga
EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS: The "Think Differently" initiative promotes awareness and acceptance of all people, and advocates for the inclusion of all individuals living with special needs; and

WHEREAS: Our state and communities are stronger because of our diversity and differences; and

WHEREAS: According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) over 55 million people, or approximately 19% of Americans, have a type of disability or special need; and

WHEREAS: For some people with special needs, the very thing that makes them unique can also keep them on the sidelines, separate from those who might not understand their differences or uniqueness; and

WHEREAS: Tioga County Public Health serves the local community through multi-faceted Children's Programs founded on meeting the child where they are; and

WHEREAS: It is important to promote and provide guidance to those with special needs on how to access supportive services available to them in the community; and

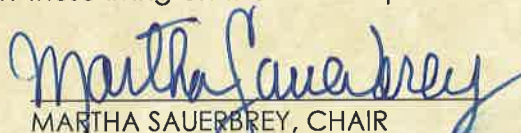
WHEREAS: The goal of this initiative is to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for individuals of all abilities by supporting community events that expand family friendly opportunities for people with special needs and their families; and

WHEREAS: Tioga County Public Health will serve as a leader in ensuring that individuals and families with special needs have their needs met; and

WHEREAS: Adopting the "Think Differently" initiative is an important statement that our county officials, business owners, and residents can make to show their support for differently-abled children and adults with special needs; therefore

THE TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE does hereby encourage all residents and business owners to adopt the "Think Differently" initiative so that all are better prepared to communicate with, provide for, and support those living on the Autism Spectrum or have other special needs.

DATED: May 15, 2018


MARTHA SAUERBREY, CHAIR
TIOGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

