EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION

The first three years of life are crucial in a child's development, especially for those with, or at risk for, developmental disabilities. While it is difficult to learn that a child has a developmental disability, the earlier it is identified, the better the child's chances are for achieving his or her full potential.

Fortunately, California has an early intervention system that helps infants and toddlers with possible developmental disabilities receive coordinated services early enough to make a positive impact. This program is designed to complement a family's efforts to raise the child in such a way that will prepare him or her for a productive life as an adult.

As one of the largest and most diverse early intervention initiatives in the nation, California's Early Start Program provides assistance to thousands of children and their families each year. Services include transportation, physical therapy and counseling, all at no cost to eligible children. I encourage all families concerned about developmental disabilities to research the Early Start program at www.dds.ca.gov (please click on the "Early Start" link on the left-hand side). With the dedicated work of health professionals, support staff and the Early Start program, we will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our most vulnerable children.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim March 2007, as "Early Start Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 23rd day of February 2007.

Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Attest:

Debra Bowen