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HOUSE MEMORIAL 81

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING MARCH 8, 2017 "AUTISM DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder is a neurological disorder that interferes with the development of communication and social interactions skills; and

WHEREAS, one in every sixty-eight children born in 2017 will be later diagnosed as having an autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, autism affects people of all races and religions and all educational and economic levels; and

WHEREAS, autism is a lifelong condition that presents challenges to education, employment, housing and community development; and

WHEREAS, parents, professionals, self-advocates and

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1 volunteers devote countless hours to improve the quality of  
2 life of those affected by autism; and

3 WHEREAS, early intervention, evidence-based practices and  
4 proven support systems greatly improve the outcomes and reduce  
5 the lifelong costs of care of individuals with autism and their  
6 families; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico celebrates and recognizes the valuable  
8 contributions to its communities, businesses, technologies and  
9 cultures made by people with autism; and

10 WHEREAS, the many professionals, families, advocates and  
11 volunteers working to promote a greater understanding of autism  
12 to improve the quality of life of those affected by autism are  
13 to be commended;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 8, 2017  
16 be declared "Autism Day" in the house of representatives; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the New Mexico affiliate of the autism society  
19 of America.