

2011 -- H 6078

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**PROCLAIMING APRIL, 2011, AS "AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Palumbo, Morrison, Naughton, San Bento, and JP O'Neill

Date Introduced: April 27, 2011

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Autism is a neurological disorder that profoundly affects a person's ability
2 to communicate, process, and respond to sensory information, making it difficult for them to
3 relate to others and the world around them; and

4 WHEREAS, Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States,
5 affecting 1 in 110 children, and, based on statistics from the United States Department of
6 Education and other governmental agencies, Autism is growing at a startling rate of 10 to 17
7 percent per year. At this rate, the Autism Society of America estimates that the prevalence of
8 Autism could reach four million Americans in the next decade; and

9 WHEREAS, Typically appearing during the first three years of life, Autism is the result
10 of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the brain. Autism knows no
11 racial, ethnic, or social boundaries, but is three to four times more prevalent in boys than in girls;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Over the past several years, significant progress has been made in the areas
14 of research, diagnostic practices, and therapies for individuals with Autism; and

15 WHEREAS, A variety of causes, including environmental toxins, childhood
16 immunizations, and genetics, are all being studied in relation to Autism, but to date, there is no
17 identifiable cause or cure for Autism; and

18 WHEREAS, Research indicates that early, intensive, sustained, and appropriate
19 intervention can result in significant improvements in the quality of life, level of independent

1 functioning, and reduction of public costs associated with Autism; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
3 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims April, 2011, to be "Autism Awareness Month" in the
4 State of Rhode Island; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby recognizes the achievements
6 made by various individuals and agencies across the state who have improved the quality of life
7 for those with Autism and their families, and supports the continuation of their efforts through
8 greater awareness, understanding, and know ledge of this disorder; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Autism Coalition.

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