

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 196

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to commemorate “Autism Awareness Day” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than three million people, and it requires a local and national response; and

WHEREAS, autism impacts how individuals perceive and interact with the world and can affect anyone, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, or economic means; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of autism may manifest themselves in a variety of ways and can affect an individual’s ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal as well as nonverbal communication; and

WHEREAS, awareness of autism is crucial to ensure that persons living with autism have access to lifelong care and services needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and to achieve their maximum potential; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that one in every sixty-eight children is affected by autism; and

WHEREAS, early identification of autism is critical for successful outcomes of interventions and therapies; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans recognize that autism is a significant and growing public health issue and desire to raise awareness of the disorder and resources available to citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga Autism Center, the Autism Society of the Mid-South, Autism Tennessee, and the Autism Society of East Tennessee are leaders in the field of serving individuals affected by autism; and

WHEREAS, all individuals deserve the opportunity to fulfill their potential and lead rewarding and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is honored to participate in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of autism and an increased quality of life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the Chattanooga Autism Center, the Autism Society of the Mid-South, Autism Tennessee, the Autism Society of East Tennessee, and caring individuals across the State as they commemorate April 2, 2015, as "Autism Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.