

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 776

By Byrd

A RESOLUTION to commemorate April 2016 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges; and

WHEREAS, autism affects individuals differently, mildly affecting some and significantly disabling others; and

WHEREAS, ASD affects one in every sixty-eight children; and

WHEREAS, autism is four times more likely to be diagnosed in boys than in girls; and

WHEREAS, autism can affect anyone regardless of race, ethnicity, or age; and

WHEREAS, ASD is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States;

and

WHEREAS, it is well established that early intervention can improve outcomes by significantly improving the learning, communication, adaptive, and behavioral skills of people with autism; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2016, on the floor of the House of Representatives, a remarkable young man with ASD, Mr. Logan Blake, sang the members his rendition of "Long Black Train"; and

WHEREAS, the parents and relatives of those individuals affected by ASD should be specially recognized and commended for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of individuals with autism, and for absorbing financial costs for specialized education, medical clinical interventions, and support services; and

WHEREAS, autism is a major public health crisis that is taking an enormous toll on millions of families who need answers that can come only through further research; 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 join with our fellow citizens who are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder, their families and caregivers, and public healthcare professionals across our State as they commemorate April 2016 as "Autism Awareness Month" 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.