

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4635, by Representatives McCabe, Ryu, Macri, Reeves, Klippert, Gregerson, Irwin, Barkis, and J. Walsh

1           WHEREAS, Autism is a developmental disability that typically  
2 appears during the first two years of life and continues throughout  
3 an individual's lifespan; and

4           WHEREAS, Autism is America's fastest growing developmental  
5 disability and affects over 2 million Americans; presently, 1 in 68  
6 babies born are autistic; and

7           WHEREAS, Currently, 1 in 42 boys are affected with autism, as  
8 opposed to 1 in 189 girls; and

9           WHEREAS, There are many different characteristics in individuals  
10 with autism: Delayed or deficient communication, decreased or  
11 unresponsive social interaction, unusual reaction to normal stimuli,  
12 a lack of spontaneous or imaginative play, and behavioral challenges;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, Despite being born with autism, many children are not  
15 diagnosed until after they are 4 years old due to a lack of  
16 recognition of autism's characteristics by general practitioners; and

17           WHEREAS, Autism has no known cause and no known cure; however,  
18 with aggressive and continuous therapy, some individuals can learn to  
19 acclimate to their environment and mask the symptoms of their  
20 disability; and

21           WHEREAS, Applied behavior analysis has become widely accepted  
22 among health care professionals and is used in many schools and  
23 treatment clinics; and

1       WHEREAS, In order to improve a variety of skills, applied  
2 behavior analysis encourages positive behaviors, discourages negative  
3 behaviors, and tracks and measures a child's progress in those areas;  
4 and

5       WHEREAS, Autism can create significant stress on the families of  
6 those affected by autism; and

7       WHEREAS, All individuals with autism should be included and  
8 regarded as valuable members of our community; and

9       WHEREAS, Families; caregivers; advocates; and organizations, such  
10 as the Autism Society of Washington, Northwest Autism Center,  
11 Families for Effective Autism Treatment, and the Arc of Washington  
12 State, are striving to bring about positive changes for children and  
13 adults with autism; and

14       WHEREAS, Through research, training, public services, support  
15 groups, advocacy, and increased awareness we will be more  
16 understanding, inclusive, and better equipped to support the growing  
17 number of individuals with autism and their families;

18       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
19 honor and support individuals with autism, and acknowledge the  
20 tremendous courage that they and their families put forth every day.

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