

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.2005-4616, by Representatives Flannigan and Dunshee

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

WHEREAS, Many children are not diagnosed until after three years of age, often because of lack of recognition of Autism characteristics by general practitioners; and

WHEREAS, There are many different characteristics in individuals with Autism-delayed or deficient communication, decreased or unresponsive social interaction, unusual reaction to normal stimuli, a lack of spontaneous or imaginative play, and behavioral challenges; and

WHEREAS, There is no known cause and no known cure, although with continuous involvement by our research community, further knowledge and understanding of Autism can be obtained; and

WHEREAS, With aggressive and continuous therapy, some individuals can learn to acclimate to their environment and mask symptoms of their disability; and

WHEREAS, All individuals with Autism deserve the chance to be included as a valued part of their community; and

WHEREAS, Autism can have a devastating impact on the families of those affected by Autism; and

WHEREAS, Families, caregivers, advocates, and organizations are striving to bring about positive changes for children and adults with Autism; and

WHEREAS, Through research, legislation, training, support groups, advocacy, and increased awareness, we will be empowered and ready to meet the challenges to serve the growing population of individuals with Autism;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support those affected by Autism by observing April as Autism Awareness Month as declared by Governor Gregoire; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Honorable Christine Gregoire.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of  
Resolution 4616 adopted by the House of Representatives  
February 8, 2005

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Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk