

SENATE RESOLUTION
8656

By Senator Roach

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

4 WHEREAS, Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability
5 in the United States, affecting over 2 million Americans, 1 in 88
6 babies born; and

7 WHEREAS, 1 in 54 boys are affected, as opposed to 1 in 252 girls;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Many children are not diagnosed until after 4 years of
10 age, often because of lack of recognition of autism characteristics
11 by general practitioners; and

12 WHEREAS, There are many different characteristics in individuals
13 with autism, including delayed or deficient communication, decreased
14 or unresponsive social interaction, unusual reaction to normal
15 stimuli, a lack of spontaneous or imaginative play, and behavioral
16 challenges; and

17 WHEREAS, There is no known cause and no known cure for autism,
18 however with aggressive and continuous therapy, some individuals can
19 learn to acclimate to their environment and mitigate symptoms of
20 their disability; and

21 WHEREAS, Applied Behavior Analysis has become widely accepted
22 among health care professionals and used in many schools and
23 treatment clinics. Applied Behavior Analysis encourages positive

1 behaviors and discourages negative behaviors in order to improve a
2 variety of skills and tracks and measures a child's progress; and

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

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

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

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

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
17 honor and support individuals with autism and acknowledge the
18 tremendous courage that they and their families put forth every day;
19 and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
21 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
22 Honorable Jay Inslee.

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