

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8656

By Senators Roach, Conway, Fraser, and Kohl-Welles

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, Families, caregivers, advocates, and organizations, such  
31 as the Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy, Autism Society of  
32 Washington, Northwest Autism Center, Families for Effective Autism  
33 Treatment, and The Arc of Washington State, are striving to bring  
34 about positive changes for children and adults with autism; and

1           WHEREAS, Through research, training, public services,  
2 support groups, advocacy, and increased awareness, we will be  
3 more understanding, inclusive, and better equipped to support  
4 the growing number of individuals with autism and their  
5 families;

6           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
7 Senate honor and support individuals with autism and acknowledge  
8 the tremendous courage that they and their families put forth  
9 every day; and

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
11 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the  
12 Honorable Jay Inslee.

13 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,  
14 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
15 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8656,  
16 adopted by the Senate  
17 April 1, 2015

18 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
19 Secretary of the Senate