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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

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SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2023, AS "AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators de la Cruz, E Morgan, Ujifusa, Raptakis, F. Lombardi, Tikoian,  
Mack, Picard, Lawson, and Lauria

Date Introduced: March 30, 2023

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Autism is a neurological disorder that profoundly affects a person's ability  
2 to communicate, process, and respond to sensory information, making it difficult for them to  
3 relate to others and the world around them; and

4           WHEREAS, Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States,  
5 affecting about 1 in every 44 children, and, based on statistics from the Centers for Disease  
6 Control and Prevention, Autism has grown at a startling rate with a 10 percent increase in  
7 prevalence nationally; and

8           WHEREAS, Typically appearing during the first three years of life, Autism is the result  
9 of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the brain. Autism knows no  
10 racial, ethnic, or social boundaries, but is four and one-half to five times more prevalent in boys  
11 than in girls; and

12           WHEREAS, Over the past several years, significant progress has been made in the areas  
13 of research, diagnostic practices, and therapies for individuals with Autism; and

14           WHEREAS, A variety of causes, including environmental toxins, childhood  
15 immunizations, and genetics, are all being studied in relation to Autism, but to date, there is no  
16 identifiable cause or cure for Autism; and

17           WHEREAS, Research indicates that early, intensive, sustained, and appropriate  
18 intervention can result in significant improvements in the quality of life, level of independent  
19 functioning, and reduction of public costs associated with Autism; now, therefore be it

1           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims April of  
2 2023, to be "Autism Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

3           RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes the achievements made by various  
4 individuals and agencies across the state who have improved the quality of life for those with  
5 Autism and their families, and supports the continuation of their efforts through greater  
6 awareness, understanding, and knowledge of this disorder; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Autism Coalition.

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