

By Senators Forman and Scott

32-1926-00

1                                   Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_  
2           A resolution designating the month of April  
3           2000 as "Autism Awareness Month" in this state.  
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5           WHEREAS, autism is a complex and puzzling  
6 neurobiological disorder that severely impairs the ability of  
7 individuals to process and integrate ordinary information from  
8 their environment, and  
9           WHEREAS, autism severely affects the way autistic  
10 individuals relate to others socially and their ability to  
11 communicate and learn, and  
12           WHEREAS, Broward County has approximately 1,000  
13 autistic children and young adults, who comprise one of the  
14 largest such populations in the United States, and  
15           WHEREAS, autism strikes 1 in every 700 children and is  
16 now considered the most common disability, and  
17           WHEREAS, autism affects all five senses, causing either  
18 very acute deficits in functioning or, sometimes, the complete  
19 absence of functioning with consistency, and  
20           WHEREAS, autism is unidentifiable until an individual  
21 is between 18 and 24 months of age and often does not manifest  
22 itself until well into the second or third year of life, and  
23           WHEREAS, with the proper treatment and intensive  
24 therapy, it is possible for many autistic children to progress  
25 to a point at which they are indistinguishable from their  
26 peers, and  
27           WHEREAS, nationally, April has been designated as  
28 "Autism Awareness Month," and  
29           WHEREAS, the Florida Senate encourages all of us to  
30 educate ourselves with respect to the effects of autism and  
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1 the therapies available for individuals with autism, NOW,  
2 THEREFORE,

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4 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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6 That the Florida Senate designates the month of April  
7 2000 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Florida.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,  
9 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the  
10 Broward County Commission, as a tangible token of the  
11 sentiments of the Florida Senate.

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