

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 2005 as "National Autism
3 Awareness Month" in Florida.
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5 WHEREAS, autism is a complex and puzzling neurobiological
6 disorder that severely impairs the ability of individuals to
7 process and integrate ordinary information from their
8 environment, and

9 WHEREAS, autism severely affects the way individuals with
10 autism relate to others socially and in their ability to
11 communicate and learn, and

12 WHEREAS, autism strikes 1 in every 150 children and is
13 now considered the most common developmental disability, and

14 WHEREAS, autism affects the functioning of all five
15 senses, with symptoms ranging from very acute to sometimes
16 nonexistent, without consistency or integration, and

17 WHEREAS, autism is unidentifiable until 12-24 months of
18 age and often does not manifest itself until well into the
19 second or third year of life, and

20 WHEREAS, with proper treatment and intensive therapy it
21 is possible for many children with autism to progress to a
22 point at which they are indistinguishable from their peers,
23 and

24 WHEREAS, neither a cause nor a cure has been discovered
25 and increased research is vital in the quest for a broader
26 understanding of this debilitating and complex affliction, and

27 WHEREAS, organizations such as the Autism Society of
28 Florida and the Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities

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29 have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to
30 advocate for persons with autism and their families, and

31 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the Governor of the State of
32 Florida encourage us all to educate ourselves with respect to
33 the effects of autism and available therapeutic and
34 educational interventions for those individuals with autism,

35 NOW, THEREFORE,

36

37 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
38 Florida:

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40 That the House of Representatives recognizes April 2005
41 as "National Autism Awareness Month" in Florida, urges the
42 residents of the state to better acquaint themselves with the
43 nature and symptoms of this heartbreaking disability, and
44 commends the dedicated groups and individuals who are working
45 on behalf of persons with autism to provide information,
46 increase awareness, and adequately fund services.