

By Senator Taddeo

40-00463-19

2019930__

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 1-7, 2019, as "Autism Soccer Awareness Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder is a lifelong developmental disability resulting in impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication, and

WHEREAS, autism, the result of a neurological disorder affecting brain function, affects one in every 68 children, and millions nationwide, but few understand this complex disorder, and

WHEREAS, children with autism have a variety of symptoms and special abilities, and

WHEREAS, children with autism have been discriminated against in the participation of sports and extracurricular activities because of these symptoms and special abilities, and

WHEREAS, children with autism have a right to reap the physical and mental benefits of sports and extracurricular activities, and

WHEREAS, children with autism must be given the chance to participate in sports and extracurricular activities as we continue to research this complex neurological disorder to find treatment options to help those affected and as we strive to provide families with education, awareness, and acceptance, and

WHEREAS, Autism Soccer teaches soccer skills to children with autism in a supportive environment that encourages teamwork and assists them in building self-confidence, NOW, THEREFORE,

40-00463-19

2019930__

30

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

32

33 That April 1-7, 2019, is designated as "Autism Soccer
34 Awareness Week" in Florida, and that Floridians are encouraged
35 to support and encourage the engagement of children with autism
36 in sports, including soccer, and extracurricular activities.