

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 88

Reps. Calley, Kahle, Wendzel, Witwer, Aiyash, Bollin, Breen, Brixie, Cavanagh, Ellison, Haadsma, Hammoud, Hood, Hope, Koleszar, Kuppa, Lasinski, Rogers, Sabo, Sneller, Sowerby, Weiss and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 2021 as Autism Awareness Month
2 in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Autism refers to a range of conditions characterized
4 by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and
5 nonverbal communication, as well as by unique strengths and
6 differences. In 2013, the American Psychiatric Association merged
7 four previously distinct diagnoses into one umbrella diagnosis of
8 autism spectrum disorder (ASD). These included autistic disorder,
9 childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental
10 disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger syndrome.

1 It is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal
2 functioning of the brain that is believed to be caused by genetic
3 and environmental factors; and

4 Whereas, Families living with autism face unique challenges
5 and frequently experience significant financial costs for
6 specialized education and support services. The uniqueness of each
7 individual with autism makes the experience of living with autism
8 different for each family; and

9 Whereas, Autism is a lifelong condition and the necessary
10 support and treatment changes as people on the spectrum move
11 through major life phases. Their quality of life depends not only
12 upon the foundation that is provided in childhood, but on ongoing
13 supports that are specific to the educational, medical, social,
14 recreational, family, and employment needs of the individual; and

15 Whereas, Autism knows no racial, ethnic, social boundaries,
16 family income, lifestyle, or educational levels and can affect any
17 family and any child. Autism is the fastest-growing developmental
18 disability in the United States and it is estimated that it is
19 prevalent in 1 in every 59 children under the age of 8 and is four
20 times more likely to occur in boys than in girls; and

21 Whereas, April 2021 is National Autism Awareness Month; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
24 this legislative body declare April 2021 as Autism Awareness Month
25 in the state of Michigan.