

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 88

Reps. Calley, Kahle, Wendzel and Witwer 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.  
11 It is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal  
12 functioning of the brain that is believed to be caused by genetic

1 and environmental factors; and

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

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

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

19       Whereas, April 2021 is National Autism Awareness Month; now,  
20 therefore, be it

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