

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.266

Rep. Calley offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 2022 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
13 and environmental factors; and

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

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

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

18 Whereas, April 2022 is National Autism Awareness Month; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
21 this legislative body declare April 2022 as Autism Awareness Month
22 in the state of Michigan.