
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 50 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY GALLAGHER, McNEILL, GIRAL, SAPPEY, JAMES, KAZEEM,
GUENST, SCHLOSSBERG, KHAN, MARSHALL, MADDEN, McANDREW,
HADDOCK, VENKAT, DELLOSO, PARKER, HOWARD, HOHENSTEIN, KINSEY,
HILL-EVANS, NEILSON, GILLEN, TAKAC, CABELL, STURLA, CERRATO,
SANCHEZ, WARREN, GERGELY AND CONKLIN, MARCH 30, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 30, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2023 as "Autism Acceptance Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a complex disability
4 requiring greater recognition, understanding and acceptance to
5 ensure that all individuals living with autism spectrum disorder
6 are accurately diagnosed and appropriately supported throughout
7 their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a lifelong neurological
9 and developmental disability resulting in impairment of an
10 individual's ability to learn and develop healthy interactive
11 behaviors and understand verbal, nonverbal and reciprocal
12 communication; and

13 WHEREAS, Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and
14 is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently
15 and to varying degrees; and

16 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is one of the fastest-

1 growing developmental disorders in the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, There is no known single cause of autism, but
3 increased awareness, funding and acceptance can help families
4 today; and

5 WHEREAS, Although a cure for autism spectrum disorder has not
6 been found, individuals living with autism spectrum disorder can
7 be assisted in reaching their greatest potential through
8 accurate early diagnosis, appropriate education and
9 intervention; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
11 Prevention, 1 in 54 individuals under 21 years of age are
12 affected by autism spectrum disorder; and

13 WHEREAS, The number of adults living with autism spectrum
14 disorder is expected to increase dramatically over the next few
15 years as adolescents age into adulthood; and

16 WHEREAS, Individuals of all genders, races, ethnicities and
17 economic backgrounds can be diagnosed with autism spectrum
18 disorder; and

19 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is four times more likely
20 to affect boys than girls; and

21 WHEREAS, One in 27 boys and 1 in 116 girls are diagnosed with
22 autism spectrum disorder; and

23 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder can be reliably diagnosed
24 by the age of two; and

25 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is more difficult to
26 diagnose in adults than children; and

27 WHEREAS, There may be more than 185,000 individuals on the
28 autism spectrum in Pennsylvania; and

29 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services created the Office
30 of Developmental Programs, which includes the Bureau of Supports

1 for Autism and Special Populations, to provide expertise and
2 support for all agencies serving Pennsylvanians living with
3 autism spectrum disorder; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
5 month of April 2023 as "Autism Acceptance Month" in
6 Pennsylvania.