

Reps. Garrett, Wittenberg, Neeley, Sneller, Clemente, Zemke, Hoadley, Liberati, Allor, Bizon, Brinks, Chang, Cochran, Elder, Faris, Frederick, Gay-Dagnogo, Geiss, Green, Greig, Greimel, Hammoud, Howrylak, Kahle, Kelly, Lasinski, Marino, Maturen, Moss, Pagan, Phelps, Sabo and Singh offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 284.

A resolution to declare April 2018 as Autism Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Autism refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication, as well as by unique strengths and differences. In 2013, the American Psychiatric Association merged four previously distinct diagnoses into one umbrella diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). These included autistic disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger syndrome. It is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the brain that is believed to be caused by genetic and environmental factors; and

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

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

Whereas, An estimated 50,000 teens with autism become adults and lose school-based autism services, each year; and

Whereas, Autism knows no racial, ethnic, social boundaries, family income, lifestyle, or educational levels, and can affect any family and any child. There are over 3.5 million Americans living with the effects of autism spectrum disorder; and

Whereas, Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States. Autism prevalence is estimated at 1 in every 68 births and is four to five times more likely to occur in boys than in girls; and

Whereas, April 2018 is National Autism Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare April 2018 as Autism Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.