

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY REPRESENTATIVE STOKES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize April 2016 as Autism Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than three million people, is an urgent public health crisis that demands a national response; and

WHEREAS, autism is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the human brain, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS, symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal as well as nonverbal communication; and

WHEREAS, the effort to address autism continues, and doctors, therapists, and educators can help persons with autism overcome or adjust to its challenges and provide early and accurate diagnosis and the appropriate education, intervention, and therapy that are vital to future growth and development; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that persons living with autism have access to the lifelong care and services needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and achieve their greatest potential is a worthy goal; and

WHEREAS, annual World Autism Awareness Day is April 2, 2016, and April is National Autism Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 2016 as Autism Awareness Month in Louisiana to raise public awareness of autism and the myriad of issues surrounding autism, as well as to increase knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE