

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 49

Reps. Frederick and Liberati offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 2, 2019, as Autism Awareness Day
2 in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Autism is the result of a neurological disorder that
4 affects the normal functioning of the brain and impacts development
5 in the areas of social interaction and communication skills; and

6 Whereas, The demands of living with a person with autism are
7 great and families frequently experience significant financial
8 costs for specialized education and support services. The
9 uniqueness of each individual with autism makes the experience of
10 living with autism different for each family; and

11 Whereas, Autism is a lifelong condition and the necessary
12 support and treatment changes as people on the spectrum move



1 through major life phases. Their quality of life depends not only
2 upon the foundation that is provided in childhood, but on ongoing
3 supports that are specific to the educational, medical, social,
4 recreational, family, and employment needs of the individual; and

5 Whereas, Autism knows no racial, ethnic, social boundaries,
6 family income, lifestyle, or educational levels, and can affect any
7 family and any child. Autism is the fastest-growing developmental
8 disability in the United States and it is estimated that it is
9 prevalent in 1 in every 59 children under the age of 8 and is four
10 times more likely to occur in boys than in girls; and Whereas,
11 Early intervention services are the primary therapeutic option for
12 young people with autism and that early intervention significantly
13 improves the outcome for people with autism and can reduce the
14 level of funding and services needed to treat people with autism
15 later in life; and

16 Whereas, New opportunities are being created through
17 collaborative efforts of family members, professionals, and all
18 levels of government to bring about significant changes in the
19 public perception of young people and adults with developmental
20 disabilities, including those with autism, opening new doors to
21 independent and productive lives; and

22 Whereas, The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
23 supports people with developmental disabilities, including those
24 with autism, to achieve their life's dreams and ensure that all
25 citizens of Michigan have the opportunities and support to achieve
26 their full potential; and

27 Whereas, Numerous efforts to support individuals in Michigan
28 have been made in recent years, including legislation enacted in
29 2012 to require insurance coverage of autism therapy treatment.

1 Furthermore, the Michigan Autism Council was established by
2 Executive Order to adopt and implement the Michigan Autism Spectrum
3 Disorder Plan; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
5 this legislative body declare April 2, 2019, as Autism Awareness
6 Day in the state of Michigan.