

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 303

Recognizing the importance of autism awareness, supporting efforts to increase funding for research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2008

Mr. DOYLE (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of autism awareness, supporting efforts to increase funding for research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism.

Whereas autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first 3 years of life, robbing individuals of their ability to communicate and interact with others;

Whereas autism affects an estimated 1 in every 150 children in the United States;

Whereas autism is 4 times more likely to occur in boys than in girls;

Whereas autism can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors;

Whereas it costs approximately \$80,000 per year to treat an individual with autism in a medical center specializing in developmental disabilities;

Whereas the cost of special education programs for school-age children with autism is often more than \$30,000 per individual per year;

Whereas the cost nationally of caring for persons affected by autism is estimated at upwards of \$90,000,000,000 per year;

Whereas despite the fact that autism is one of the most common developmental disorders, many professionals in the medical and educational fields are still unaware of the best methods to diagnose and treat the disorder; and

Whereas the United Nations has declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2008, increasing public awareness worldwide of the need to support individuals with autism and the family members, teachers, physicians, and other professionals who care for individuals with autism: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) recognizes and commends the parents and
4 relatives of individuals with autism for their sacrifice
5 and dedication in providing for the special needs of

1 individuals with autism and for absorbing significant
2 financial costs for specialized education and support
3 services, as well as health services that are often not
4 reimbursed through insurance coverage;

5 (2) supports the goal of increasing Federal
6 funding for aggressive research to learn the root
7 causes of autism, identify those affected by the dis-
8 order, determine the best methods of early interven-
9 tion and treatment, expand programs for individuals
10 with autism across their lifespans, and promote un-
11 derstanding of the special needs of people with au-
12 tism;

13 (3) stresses the need to begin early intervention
14 services soon after a child has been diagnosed with
15 autism, noting that early intervention strategies are
16 the primary therapeutic options for young people
17 with autism, and that early intervention significantly
18 improves the outcome for people with autism and
19 can reduce the level of funding and services needed
20 to treat people with autism later in life;

21 (4) supports the Federal Government's more
22 than 30-year-old commitment to provide States with
23 40 percent of the costs needed to educate children
24 with disabilities under part B of the Individuals with
25 Disabilities Education Act;

1 (5) supports the Federal Government’s commit-
2 ment to fund services through Medicaid to eligible
3 individuals with autism;

4 (6) recognizes the shortage of appropriately
5 trained professionals who have the skills and support
6 necessary to identify, teach, assist, treat, and re-
7 spond to individuals with autism in community set-
8 tings;

9 (7) recognizes the importance of worker train-
10 ing programs that are tailored to the needs of devel-
11 opmentally disabled persons, including those with
12 autism, and note that people with autism can be,
13 and are, productive members of the workforce if they
14 are given appropriate support, training, and early
15 intervention services;

16 (8) stresses that individuals with autism, like
17 other Americans, should have the opportunity to re-
18 alize their ambitions and lead rewarding lives; and

19 (9) joins with the members of the United Na-
20 tions in promoting awareness of autism spectrum
21 disorders in all regions of the world.

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