

State of Wisconsin



2009 Assembly Joint Resolution 33

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to: proclaiming April as Autism Awareness Month.

Whereas, autism is the most common condition in a group of developmental disorders known as the autism spectrum disorders; and

Whereas, autism is a neurological condition characterized by impaired social interactions; problems with verbal and nonverbal communication; and unusual, repetitive, or restricted activities and interests; and

Whereas, about 1 in every 150 children are affected by autism; and

Whereas, as many as a half-million Americans under the age of 21 are affected by this condition; and

Whereas, autism can take an emotional, physical, and financial toll on the families and children affected; and

Whereas, until recent years, autism was considered to be a life-long disability with poor prognosis. Now, with early and appropriate treatment, research shows that early care can dramatically help children with autism—making almost 50 percent of autistic persons indistinguishable from their peers; and

Whereas, many autistic children who receive treatment as infants and toddlers require no special education or support services when they enter school, and many others make significant gains and learn skills that allow them to attend school, make friends, and participate in their communities; and

Whereas, recent studies show that the cost of care for an untreated child with autism is more than \$3 million over the child's lifetime; and

Whereas, early detection and treatment for autistic infants and children benefit Wisconsin taxpayers by reducing the costs of support services they might otherwise require later in life; and

Whereas, increased awareness of autism and its effects is important to ensure that everyone knows the warning signs and treatment options; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature declare the month of April to be Autism Awareness Month.

Senator Fred A. Risser
President of the Senate

Representative Michael J. Sheridan
Speaker of the Assembly

Date

Patrick E. Fuller
Assembly Chief Clerk