

2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 33

March 19, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives HIXSON, PETERSEN, PASCH, SINICKI
HILGENBERG, NEWCOMER, MOLEPSKE JR., HRAYCHUCK, NERISON, ROTH, TOLES
HINTZ, TOWNSEND, RIPP, BROOKS, KNODL, POCAN, KAUFERT, TAUCHEN, BENEDICT
TURNER, ZIGMUNT, KERKMAN, SHILLING, VRUWINK, NELSON, HEBL, BERCEAU
POPE-ROBERTS, NYGREN, M. WILLIAMS, VUKMIR, CULLEN, MURSAU, A. OTT, FIELDS
GRIGSBY, A. WILLIAMS and ZEPNICK, cosponsored by Senators ROBSON, KAPANKE
TAYLOR, MILLER, SULLIVAN, RISSER, LASSA, COWLES, LEHMAN, PLALE, GROTHMAN
SCHULTZ, OLSEN and LEIBHAM. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	Relating to: proclaiming April as Autism Awareness Month.
2	Whereas, autism is the most common condition in a group of developmental
3	disorders known as the autism spectrum disorders; and
4	Whereas, autism is a neurological condition characterized by impaired social
5	interactions; problems with verbal and nonverbal communication; and unusual,
6	repetitive, or restricted activities and interests; and
7	Whereas, about 1 in every 150 children are affected by autism; and
8	Whereas, as many as a half-million Americans under the age of 21 are affected
9	by this condition; and
10	Whereas, autism can take an emotional, physical, and financial toll on the
11	families and children affected; and
12	Whereas, until recent years, autism was considered to be a life-long disability
13	with poor prognosis. Now, with early and appropriate treatment, research shows
14	that early care can dramatically help children with autism—making almost 50
15	percent of autistic persons indistinguishable from their peers; and

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1	Whereas, many autistic children who receive treatment as infants and toddlers
2	require no special education or support services when they enter school, and many
3	others make significant gains and learn skills that allow them to attend school, make
4	friends, and participate in their communities; and
5	Whereas, recent studies show that the cost of care for an untreated child with
6	autism is more than \$3 million over the child's lifetime; and
7	Whereas, early detection and treatment for autistic infants and children
8	benefit Wisconsin taxpayers by reducing the costs of support services they might
9	otherwise require later in life; and
10	Whereas, increased awareness of autism and its effects is important to ensure
11	that everyone knows the warning signs and treatment options; now, therefore, be it
12	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the
13	Wisconsin legislature declare the month of April to be Autism Awareness Month.
14	(END)