



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

