



2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 116

March 22, 2018 - Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, FEYEN and LARSON, cosponsored by Representative MURPHY. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming April 2018 as Autism Acceptance Month in Wisconsin.

2 Whereas, autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a range of
3 neurodevelopmental conditions characterized by impaired social interactions,
4 restricted and repetitive behaviors, and speech and nonverbal communication
5 problems, as well as by unique strengths and differences; and

6 Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1 in
7 68, or 1.5 percent, of school-aged children have ASD. This includes 1 in 42 boys and
8 1 in 189 girls; and

9 Whereas, it is estimated that more than 3.5 million Americans have ASD; and

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

12 Whereas, research shows that early diagnosis of ASD and early intervention
13 can reduce symptoms and lead to significantly improved outcomes; and

1 Whereas, many children with ASD who receive early and ongoing treatment
2 learn communication skills that allow them to attend school, make friends, and
3 participate in their communities; and

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

7 Whereas, the most obvious signs of ASD typically appear between two and
8 three years of age, but less than half of children with ASD receive developmental
9 evaluations by age three; and

10 Whereas, increased awareness and acceptance of ASD and its effects is vital to
11 ensure that everyone knows the warning signs and the importance of early detection
12 and treatment; and

13 Whereas, adults with ASD have lower employment rates and higher rates of
14 complete social isolation than people with other disabilities; and

15 Whereas, only 58 percent of high school students with autism have a transition
16 plan by age 14; and

17 Whereas, individuals with ASD can prove to be valuable employees,
18 empowered by their disorder, when a task requires them to be hyperfocused; and

19 Whereas, the Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon is the most recognized symbol
20 of the ASD community in the world; and

21 Whereas, April is nationally recognized as Autism Awareness Month and April
22 2 is recognized as World Autism Awareness Day; and

23 Whereas, it is time to accept people with ASD and empower them to be as
24 self-sufficient as possible and eliminate any stigma that prevents them from
25 attaining their goals; now, therefore, be it

1 **Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That** the legislature
2 hereby proclaims April 2018 as Autism Acceptance Month in Wisconsin.

3 (END)