

No. R-434. House concurrent resolution designating April 2016 as Autism Awareness and Appreciation Month.

(H.C.R.341)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: Senator Zuckerman

Whereas, according to the American Psychiatric Association, autism spectrum disorder (autism) “is a complex developmental disorder that can cause problems with thinking, feeling, language and the ability to relate to others,” and

Whereas, autism symptoms range from mild to severe, and each person with autism is a unique individual, and

Whereas, autism occurs in one in 68 children, and

Whereas, boys are four and one-half times more likely to be diagnosed with autism, and Caucasian children are the most likely to be identified with autism, and

Whereas, many children with autism are not receiving comprehensive developmental evaluation as early as they could be, according to recent statements by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and

Whereas, caring Vermonters in the health, education, and human services fields are working very hard to support children and youths with autism, and

Whereas, 8 V.S.A. § 4088i requires that a “health insurance plan shall provide coverage for the evidence-based diagnosis and treatment of early childhood developmental disorders,” including autism, and

Whereas, several federal laws provide for autism support services across the lifespan as well as important scientific research, and

Whereas, Vermont families nonetheless struggle to access the necessary support services for their autistic family members, and

Whereas, children and youths with autism will become adults in the next decade with many needing continuing support, and

Whereas, Vermonters need to recognize the skills and potential contributions of individuals with autism, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 2016 as Autism Awareness and Appreciation Month, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Education, the Commissioner of Labor, the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access, and the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.