

Senate Resolution 518

By: Senator Thomas of the 54th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Autism Speaks Foundation and recognizing the May 19, 2007, Annual  
2 Walk for Autism in Atlanta, Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Autism Speaks is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving families affected  
4 by autism — a complex neurobiological disorder affecting one in every 150 children and  
5 adults, and occurring equally in all racial, ethnic, and social groups; and

6 WHEREAS, more children in the United States suffer from autism than from pediatric  
7 cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined; and

8 WHEREAS, the organization's mission is to raise funds for promoting research and  
9 education for the diagnosis, treatment, and cure of autism and to provide support to affected  
10 individuals and families; and

11 WHEREAS, Susan and Bob Wright founded Autism Speaks in 2005 following the diagnosis  
12 of their young grandson; they wanted to do all that they could to increase public awareness  
13 of autism and funding of autism research; and

14 WHEREAS, in its first year the organization joined forces with the National Alliance for  
15 Autism Research, thereby creating the largest single organization devoted to autism in the  
16 nation; and

17 WHEREAS, Autism Speaks, working tirelessly to raise awareness and rally the public  
18 against this insidious affliction, has established an annual march to raise much needed  
19 funding, and the Georgia Annual Walk for Autism will be held on May 19, 2007, in Atlanta  
20 Georgia at Atlantic Station; and

21 WHEREAS, early intervention treatment is critical to give these young children a chance to  
22 develop communication, social, and cognitive skills; and

1 WHEREAS, while the disorder sadly has no cure right now, the Autism Speaks Foundation  
2 is leading the way in the fight to one day make autism a thing of the past.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
4 join in commending the Autism Speaks Foundation for its efforts in the battle to find a cure  
5 for autism, thanking the foundation for all it does to help families struggling with the  
6 disorder, and wishing them much success in their May 19, 2007, Annual Walk for Autism  
7 in Atlanta, Georgia.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
9 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Autism Speaks Foundation.