

Senate Resolution 56

By: Senator Albers of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 28, 2015, as Autism Awareness Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder means any of the pervasive developmental disorders
4 or autism spectrum disorders as defined by the most recent edition of the *Diagnostic and*
5 *Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, including autistic disorder, Asperger disorder, and
6 pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified; and

7 WHEREAS, autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the
8 first three years of life and is defined by a certain set of behaviors that affects individuals
9 differently and to varying degrees; and

10 WHEREAS, autism statistics from the United States Centers for Disease Control and
11 Prevention identify around 1 in 68 American children as being on the autism spectrum—a
12 ten-fold increase in prevalence in 40 years; and

13 WHEREAS, studies also show that autism is four to five times more common among boys
14 than girls. An estimated 1 out of 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls are diagnosed with autism in the
15 United States; and

16 WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder affects more than 3 million individuals in the United
17 States and tens of millions worldwide. Moreover, government autism statistics suggest that
18 prevalence rates have increased 10 to 17 percent annually in recent years; and

19 WHEREAS, more children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes,
20 and cancer combined; and

21 WHEREAS, the majority of children with autism who receive appropriate treatment
22 experience marked improvement; 47 percent achieve typical function, 40 percent make
23 significant improvement, and the remaining 13 percent make limited progress; and

24 WHEREAS, Autism Speaks is the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization;
25 and it is dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, and treatments of and a
26 cure for autism, increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders, and advocating for the
27 needs of individuals with autism and their families.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 commend the work of Autism Speaks and all organizations devoted to finding a cure for
30 autism and supporting the individuals and families whose lives are affected and recognize
31 January 28, 2015, as Autism Awareness Day at the state capitol.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Autism Speaks.