

## Senate Resolution 514

By: Senators Strickland of the 42nd, Beach of the 21st, Jones II of the 22nd, Williams of the 25th, McLaurin of the 14th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2025 as Autism Acceptance Month and April 2, 2025, as World Autism  
2 Awareness Day; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex, lifelong developmental condition  
4 that affects individuals in varying ways, influencing social interaction, communication, and  
5 behavior across a broad spectrum of strengths and challenges; and

6 WHEREAS, autism can be characterized by persistent differences in communication and  
7 social interaction, including nonverbal communication challenges, difficulty interpreting  
8 social cues, and repetitive behaviors or intense interests, along with unique sensory  
9 processing needs; and

10 WHEREAS, early screening and intervention are critical for children with autism, as children  
11 diagnosed by age four are more likely to receive necessary services that can significantly  
12 improve long-term outcomes; and

13 WHEREAS, numerous evidence-based interventions—including applied behavior analysis  
14 (ABA), speech therapy, occupational therapy, and social skills training—have proven  
15 effective in promoting independence and reducing disruptive behaviors; and

16 WHEREAS, complementary therapies such as art, music, and animal-assisted programs have  
17 also shown promise in enhancing communication and social engagement for individuals with  
18 autism; and

19 WHEREAS, Autism Acceptance Month, observed annually in April, promotes greater  
20 understanding and inclusion of individuals with autism, shifting the narrative from awareness  
21 to acceptance and fostering more supportive, affirming communities; and

22 WHEREAS, World Autism Awareness Day, held on April 2 each year, provides an  
23 international platform to recognize the contributions and rights of individuals with autism as  
24 well as to promote global dialogue on inclusivity and support systems.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
26 recognize April 2025 as Autism Acceptance Month and April 2, 2025, as World Autism  
27 Awareness Day as well as commend all organizations, advocates, and families working to  
28 create a more inclusive world for individuals with autism.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
30 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
31 press.