

House Resolution 1885

By: Representatives McDonald III of the 26th, Barrett of the 24th, Jasperse of the 11th, Jones of the 25th, Clark of the 100th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2026 as Autism Acceptance Month and April 2, 2026, as World Autism
2 Awareness Day and commending Connor Tomlinson for his work advocating for the autism
3 community; and for other purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, Connor Tomlinson, a resident of Forsyth County, gained popularity as a cast
27 member on the Netflix show *Love on the Spectrum*, a show that follows people on the autism
28 spectrum who are looking for love; and

29 WHEREAS, Connor Tomlinson has connected with millions of viewers and has opened
30 doors to careers in media for individuals with autism; and

31 WHEREAS, Connor has used his platform to exercise his right to advocate for safer
32 interactions with law enforcement and individuals with autism in Georgia.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body recognize April 2026 as Autism Acceptance Month and April 2,
35 2026, as World Autism Awareness Day as well as commend all organizations, advocates, and
36 families working to create a more inclusive world for individuals with autism and Connor
37 Tomlinson for his advocacy, public awareness efforts, and work to improve safety and
38 understanding for individuals with autism in Georgia.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
41 public and the press.