
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 39 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY COMMITTA, KEARNEY, HAYWOOD, CAPPELLETTI,
TARTAGLIONE, SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, HUGHES, SCHWANK, LAUGHLIN,
BOSCOLA, COSTA, BARTOLOTTA, COLLETT, MILLER, DILLON, KANE,
L. WILLIAMS AND STREET, MARCH 14, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 14, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2023 as "Autism Acceptance Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a complex disability
4 requiring greater recognition, understanding and acceptance to
5 ensure that all individuals living with autism spectrum disorder
6 are accurately diagnosed and appropriately supported throughout
7 their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental
9 disability resulting in varying levels of impairment of an
10 individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive
11 behaviors and understand verbal, nonverbal and reciprocal
12 communication; and

13 WHEREAS, Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and
14 is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently
15 and to varying degrees; and

16 WHEREAS, There is no known single cause of autism, but
17 increased awareness, funding and acceptance can help families

1 today; and

2 WHEREAS, Although a cure for autism spectrum disorder has not
3 been found, individuals living with autism spectrum disorder can
4 be assisted in reaching their greatest potential through
5 accurate early diagnosis, appropriate education and
6 intervention; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention, approximately 1 in 44 American children are living
9 with autism spectrum disorder; and

10 WHEREAS, The number of adults living with autism spectrum
11 disorder is expected to increase dramatically over the next few
12 years as adolescents age into adulthood; and

13 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services created the Office
14 of Developmental Programs, which includes the Bureau of Autism
15 Services, to provide expertise and support for all agencies
16 serving Pennsylvanians living with autism spectrum disorder;
17 therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of April 2023
19 as "Autism Acceptance Month" in Pennsylvania and urge the
20 observance throughout this Commonwealth for the benefit of all
21 individuals living with autism spectrum disorder and their
22 families.