

**2014 -- S 2894**

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LC005427  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**PROCLAIMING APRIL, 2014, AS "AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Hodgson, Cote, Sheehan, and Raptakis

Date Introduced: April 10, 2014

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Autism is a neurological disorder that profoundly affects a person's ability  
2 to communicate, process, and respond to sensory information, making it difficult for them to  
3 relate to others and the world around them; and

4           WHEREAS, Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States,  
5 affecting about 1 in every 68 children, and, based on statistics from the Centers for Disease  
6 Control and Prevention, Autism is growing at a startling rate with a 30 percent increase over the  
7 past two years; and

8           WHEREAS, Typically appearing during the first three years of life, Autism is the result  
9 of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the brain. Autism knows no  
10 racial, ethnic, or social boundaries, but is four and one-half to five times more prevalent in boys  
11 than in girls; and

12           WHEREAS, Over the past several years, significant progress has been made in the areas  
13 of research, diagnostic practices, and therapies for individuals with Autism; and

14           WHEREAS, A variety of causes, including environmental toxins, childhood  
15 immunizations, and genetics, are all being studied in relation to Autism, but to date, there is no  
16 identifiable cause or cure for Autism; and

17           WHEREAS, Research indicates that early, intensive, sustained, and appropriate  
18 intervention can result in significant improvements in the quality of life, level of independent  
19 functioning, and reduction of public costs associated with Autism; now, therefore be it

1           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
2 hereby proclaims April, 2014, to be "Autism Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode Island; and  
3 be it further

4           RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby recognizes the achievements made by various  
5 individuals and agencies across the state who have improved the quality of life for those with  
6 Autism and their families, and supports the continuation of their efforts through greater  
7 awareness, understanding, and knowledge of this disorder; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Autism Coalition.

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