

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 400

Recognizing the importance of increasing awareness of the autism spectrum disorder, and supporting programs for greater research and improved treatment of autism and improved training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for them.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. KING, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CANTOR, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. REYES, and Mr. GOODE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of increasing awareness of the autism spectrum disorder, and supporting programs for greater research and improved treatment of autism and improved training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for them.

Whereas the Autism Society of America, Cure Autism Now, the National Alliance for Autism Research, Unlocking Autism, and numerous other organizations commemorate April as Autism Awareness Month;

Whereas autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first 3 years of life;

Whereas autism has robbed at least 750,000 people in the United States of their ability to communicate and interact with others;

Whereas autism affects at least 2 to 6 in every 1,000 children in the United States;

Whereas autism is 4 times more likely in boys than in girls, and can affect anyone regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors;

Whereas the cost of specialized treatment in a developmental center for autistic persons is approximately \$80,000 per individual per year;

Whereas the cost of special education programs for school-aged children with autism is often more than \$30,000 per individual per year;

Whereas the cost nationally of caring for persons affected by autism is estimated at more than \$13 billion per year; and

Whereas despite the fact that autism is one of the most common developmental disorders, many professionals in the medical and educational fields are still unaware of the best methods to diagnose and treat the disorder: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2            (1) supports the goals and ideas of Autism  
3        Awareness Month;

4            (2) recognizes and commends the parents and  
5        relatives of autistic children for their sacrifice and

1 dedication in providing for the special needs of their  
2 autistic children and for absorbing significant finan-  
3 cial costs for specialized education and support serv-  
4 ices;

5 (3) supports the goal of increasing Federal  
6 funding for aggressive research to learn the root  
7 causes of autism, identify the best methods of early  
8 intervention and treatment, and promote under-  
9 standing of the special needs of autistic persons;

10 (4) commends the Department of Health and  
11 Human Services for the swift implementation of the  
12 Children's Health Act of 2000, particularly for es-  
13 tablishing 4 Centers of Excellence at the Centers of  
14 Disease Control and Prevention to study the epide-  
15 miology of autism and related developmental disabil-  
16 ities and the proposed Centers of Excellence at the  
17 National Institutes of Health for autism research;  
18 and

19 (5) stresses the need to begin early intervention  
20 services soon after a child has been diagnosed with  
21 autism, noting that early intervention strategies, in-  
22 cluding applied behavioral analysis, are the primary  
23 therapeutic options for young autistic persons.

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