The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day after the date of enactment of this Act and are repealed on October 1, 2004.

Whereas the cost of specialized treatment for individuals with autism is approximately $80,000 per individual per year;

Whereas the cost nationally of caring for persons affected by autism is estimated at more than $90,000,000,000 per year; and

Whereas despite the fact that autism is one of the most treatable 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

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the establishment of April as National Autism Awareness Month; (2) recognizes and commends the parents and relatives of children with autism for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of children with autism, and for absorbing significant financial costs for specialized education and support services; (3) supports the goal of increasing Federal funding for aggressive research to learn the root causes of autism, identify the best methods of early intervention and treatment, expand programs for individuals with autism across their lifespan, and promote understanding of the special needs of people with autism; (4) commends the Department of Health and Human Services for the swift implementation of the Children’s Health Act of 2000, through which “Centers of Excellence” at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study the epidemiology of autism and related disorders and the proposed “Centers of Excellence” at the National Institutes of Health for autism research;

(5) stresses the need to begin early intervention services soon after a child has been diagnosed with autism, noting that early intervention strategies are the primary therapeutic options for young people with autism, and early intervention significantly improves outcomes for people with autism and can reduce the level of funding and services needed later in life; (6) supports the Federal Government’s nearly 30-year-old commitment to provide States with 40 percent of the costs needed to educate children with disabilities, Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IEA); (7) recognizes the shortage of appropriately trained teachers and support necessary to teach, assist, and respond to special needs students, including those with autism, in our school systems; and (8) recognizes the importance of worker training programs that are tailored to the needs of developmentally disabled persons, including those with autism, and notes that people with autism and other productive members of the workforce if they are given appropriate support, training, and early intervention services.

Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HAGEL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

Whereas autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first 3 years of life, robbing individuals of their ability to communicate and interact with others;

Whereas autism affects an estimated 1 in every 250 children in America;

Whereas there is 1.6 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 developmentally appropriate environment for people with autism 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 nation that is typically diagnosed during the first 3 years of life, robbing individuals of their ability to communicate and interact with others;

Whereas autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first 3 years of life, robbing individuals of their ability to communicate and interact with others;

Whereas autism affects an estimated 1 in every 250 children in America;

Whereas there is 1.6 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 developmentally appropriate environment for people with autism is approximately $80,000 per individual per year;