

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 983

Whereas, autism disorders affect persons regardless of race, sex, religion, socioeconomic status, or geography; and

Whereas, autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the United States, with one in thirty-six children being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder; and

Whereas, there are over five million people in the United States with autism; and

Whereas, autism disorders are lifelong conditions that require support, training, assistance, and advocacy on behalf of those individuals who suffer from such disorders; and

Whereas, in 1972, the Autism Society, the nation's oldest grassroots autism organization, launched National Autistic Children's week, which grew into Autism Awareness Month; and

Whereas, April is nationally recognized as Autism Acceptance Month to increase awareness about autism signs and symptoms and promote acceptance of individuals with autism; and

Whereas, the aim of Autism Acceptance Month is to celebrate differences and build an inclusive society for individuals with autism to live fully through connection and acceptance:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred and Second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby celebrate the month of April as Autism Acceptance month and urge the citizens of Missouri to become informed of the need for services, support, and treatments for individuals with autism disorders; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Director of the Department of Mental Health.