

By: Representative D. Ferguson

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO PROCLAIM APRIL 2021 AS AUTISM AWARENESS AND
ACCEPTANCE MONTH IN ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO PROCLAIM APRIL 2021 AS AUTISM
AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE MONTH IN
ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas is committed to educating all children and fostering all children's abilities to achieve their unique potential; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder represents a broad range of conditions that vary widely from mild to severe, and is characterized by unique social interactions, nonstandard ways of learning, keen interests in specific subjects, inclination to routines, challenges in verbal and nonverbal communication, and particular ways of processing sensory information; and

WHEREAS, autism is four (4) times more likely to occur in boys than in girls, and is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that approximately one (1) in fifty-nine (59) children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, early intervention affords the best opportunity to support healthy development and deliver benefits across a life span to improve



learning, communication, and social skills, as well as underlying brain development; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on December 18, 2007, to designate April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day, to be observed every year; and

WHEREAS, many organizations and foundations are working across the country and state to create and promote opportunities for people with autism spectrum disorder through advocacy, education, the creation of economic opportunities, and humanitarian efforts,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives proclaim April 2021 as Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month in Arkansas.