

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

A RESOLUTION

To recognize March 17, 2026, as Profound Autism Day.

WHEREAS, the definition of autism has evolved over the years, creating an increasingly heterogeneous spectrum; and

WHEREAS, while the entire spectrum deserves recognition and support, profound autism is a term intended to provide clarification about the autistic people who require 24/7 care from an adult caregiver throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, people with profound autism can also have a severe intellectual disability with minimal or no language; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are frequently excluded from research and support programs because of their unique needs; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released their first prevalence study on profound autism in April 2023; and

WHEREAS, the research concluded that the percentage of 8-year-old children with profound autism among those with autism in the United States was 26.7%, meaning that one in four children with autism have profound autism; and

WHEREAS, compared with children with nonprofound autism, children with profound autism were more likely to be female, from racial and ethnic minority groups, of low socioeconomic status, born preterm or with low birth weight, have self-injurious behaviors, seizure disorders, and lower adaptive scores; and

WHEREAS, people with profound autism and those who care for them live in our midst, frequently in isolation, and need our inclusion and support; and

WHEREAS, specific consideration of the unique challenges facing individuals with profound autism is critical.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize March 17, 2026, as Profound Autism Day.

SR NO. 41

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
Profound Autism Alliance.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE