

2020 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY SENATOR FOIL

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Declares April 2nd as World Autism Day in Louisiana, annually.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To declare April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day in Louisiana, annually.

WHEREAS, World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to be April 2nd each year, beginning in 2008, having been adopted in December 2007; and

WHEREAS, this is a tribute to the millions of Americans living with autism spectrum disorder, or ASD, in recognition of the numerous triumphs over many and varied obstacles which are a testament to the strength and resolve of those diagnosed with the disorder, their supportive families, their millions of caretakers, and those who offer unwavering support and encouragement; and

WHEREAS, those millions of Americans diagnosed with a condition that places them on the autism spectrum, a neurological and developmental disorder that affects communication and behavior, have benefitted from ongoing research, both neurological and behavioral which have developed healthy interactive behaviors, helping those affected to understand both verbal and nonverbal communication; and

WHEREAS, autism is an urgent public health crisis that demands support from all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in

1 fifty-nine school-aged children identify on the autism spectrum, therefore, the nation cannot
2 waiver from its course of committing to ensuring that people living with autism have access
3 to the lifelong care and services needed to pursue their full potential and happiness; and

4 WHEREAS, with so many school-aged children being identified as having ASD,
5 over five hundred thousand young people will become adults with autism in the next few
6 years, and both the nation and individual states and localities must stand ready to assist these
7 young people in successfully transitioning to rewarding careers and fulfilling adult lives; and

8 WHEREAS, the recently reenacted Autism CARES Act is federal legislation
9 approving a five-year allocation to research for developing new treatments and therapies and
10 to enhance services for those with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout their lives, an
11 ongoing commitment to these citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, the legislation also expanded the Interagency Autism Coordinating
13 Committee to include representatives from seventeen federal agencies and stakeholders from
14 the autism community, and the enhanced public-private partnerships made possible by these
15 efforts continue to provide support to those with autism and represents that continuing
16 commitment to these citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, through the federal Department of Labor's Youth Policy Development
18 Center and the Apprenticeship Inclusion Model initiative, the nation is providing expanding
19 opportunities for Americans with ASD to develop high-demand skills that pair with
20 good-paying jobs in order to guarantee a successful path to economic security through
21 adulthood for those with ASD; and

22 WHEREAS, Louisiana stands with the national and international ASD communities,
23 particularly by way of joining in this international recognition, to uphold our resolve to work
24 to promote more meaningful connections of respect and to build a society where everyone
25 has the opportunity to succeed, offering the promise of a chance to succeed independently.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27 declare April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day in Louisiana, annually.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
29 to Autism Society Louisiana State Chapter, Inc. (LSAC).

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

	DIGEST	
SCR 23 Original	2020 First Extraordinary Session	Foil
Declares April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day in Louisiana, annually.		