



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Autism Society of America, Cure Autism Now,  
3 the National Alliance for Autism Research, Unlocking Autism,  
4 the Autism Society of Illinois, Giant Steps of Illinois, and  
5 numerous other organizations commemorate April as National  
6 Autism Awareness Month; and

7 WHEREAS, Autism is a developmental disorder that is  
8 typically diagnosed during the first 3 years of life, robbing  
9 individuals of their ability to communicate and interact with  
10 others; and

11 WHEREAS, Autism affects an estimated 1 in every 250  
12 children in America; and

13 WHEREAS, Autism is 4 times more likely in boys than in  
14 girls, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, or  
15 other factors; and

16 WHEREAS, The cost of specialized treatment in a  
17 developmental center for people with autism is approximately  
18 \$80,000 per individual per year; and

19 WHEREAS, The cost of special education programs for  
20 school-aged children with autism is often more than \$30,000 per  
21 individual per year; and

22 WHEREAS, The cost nationally of caring for persons affected  
23 by autism is estimated at more than \$90,000,000,000 per year;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that autism is one of the most  
26 common developmental disorders, many professionals in the  
27 medical and educational fields are still unaware of the best  
28 methods to diagnose and treat the disorder; and

1           WHEREAS, Public and private entities including Giant Steps  
2 of Illinois provide educational and therapeutic services to  
3 enable children with autism to achieve their maximum potential  
4 and strive to improve a child's ability to interact,  
5 communicate, and develop academic and daily life skills; the  
6 group works cooperatively with local school districts to  
7 reintegrate students with autism into their home school on a  
8 full-time or part-time basis based on the individual needs of  
9 the student; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
12 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we name the month of April 2005  
13 as Autism Awareness Month in the State of Illinois, and we  
14 recognize and commend the parents and relatives of children  
15 with autism for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for  
16 the special needs of children with autism and for absorbing  
17 significant financial costs for specialized education and  
18 support services; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That we support the goal of increasing federal,  
20 State, and private funding for aggressive research to learn the  
21 root causes of autism, identify the best methods of early  
22 intervention and treatment, expand programs for individuals  
23 with autism across their lifespan, and promote understanding of  
24 the special needs of people with autism; and be it further

25           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
26 presented to the Autism Society of Illinois and Giant Steps of  
27 Illinois.