

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1067

By: Dank

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Concurrent Resolution declaring April 2008 as
8 Autism Awareness Month; and directing distribution.
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11 WHEREAS, autism is a severe developmental disorder that begins
12 at birth or within the first two-and-a-half years of life; and

13 WHEREAS, autism is characterized by impaired social interaction,
14 problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and unusual,
15 repetitive, or severely limited activities and interests; and

16 WHEREAS, autism is the result of a neurological disorder
17 affecting the functioning of the brain, but few members of the
18 general public understand this complex syndrome; and

19 WHEREAS, for many years autism was rare – occurring in just five
20 children per 10,000 live births. However, since the early 1990s,
21 the rate of autism has increased dramatically; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2007, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
23 reported that one in 150 children is diagnosed with autism; and
24

1 WHEREAS, males are four times more likely to have autism than
2 females; and

3 WHEREAS, although a cure for autism has not been found,
4 accurate, early diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education
5 and intervention are vital to the future growth and development of
6 the individual; and

7 WHEREAS, many groups, such as the Oklahoma Autism Network, Tulsa
8 Autism Foundation, Edmond Family Center for Autism, the Central
9 Oklahoma Chapter of the Autism Society of America, and the Canadian
10 Valley Autism Support Group have dedicated their service to advocate
11 for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all
12 persons with autism; and

13 WHEREAS, these groups remain committed to their cause and to
14 educating families, professionals, and the general public to better
15 understand this lifelong disability; and

16 WHEREAS, there is a rapidly increasing need for adequate funding
17 of programs to assist those families who have an autistic child; and

18 WHEREAS, there is also a need to adequately fund autism-
19 awareness programs in the State of Oklahoma.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
21 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
22 CONCURRING THEREIN:

23 THAT the month of April 2008 is declared Autism Awareness Month
24 in the State of Oklahoma.

1 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma
2 Autism Network, Tulsa Autism Foundation, Edmond Family Center for
3 Autism, the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the Autism Society of
4 America, and the Canadian Valley Autism Support Group.

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6 51-2-9638 MG 02/19/08

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