

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1008

By: West (Tammy)

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution recognizing March 17, 2025, as Profound Autism Day at the State Capitol; and expressing the importance of awareness and support for profound autism.

WHEREAS, the definition of autism has evolved over the years, creating an increasingly heterogenous 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 his or her life; and

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

WHEREAS, individuals with profound autism are frequently excluded from research and support programs because of his or her unique needs; and

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

3 WHEREAS, the research concluded that the percentage of 8-year-
4 old children with profound autism among those with autism in the
5 United States was 26.7%. This means that 1 in 4 children with
6 autism have profound autism; and

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

12 WHEREAS, people with profound autism and those who care for them
13 live in our midst, frequently in isolation, and need our inclusion
14 and support. Specific consideration of their unique challenge is
15 critical.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
17 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

18 THAT Monday, March 17th, 2025 is hereby recognized by the
19 Oklahoma House of Representatives and the State of Oklahoma as
20 Profound Autism Day, in order to raise public awareness and support
21 for profound autism within our communities and within our state.

22
23 60-1-13224 TJ 03/06/25
24