

House Concurrent Resolution No. 31

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2176L.011

1 **Whereas**, the incidents of autism continue to soar at an alarming rate. It is
2 estimated that more the 1.5 million Americans live with some form of autism, including more
3 than 100,000 children served under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
4 (IDEA); and
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6 **Whereas**, data collected for the Department of Education indicate that the number
7 of children ages 6 through 21 diagnosed with autism served under IDEA has increased by more
8 than 500% in the last decade; and
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10 **Whereas**, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
11 recently identified 2,801 children between the ages of 3 and 21 as autistic, an increase of 850%
12 from the 294 children identified in 1991; and
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14 **Whereas**, the increase in autism spectrum disorder's prevalence across the entire
15 United States is an urgent public health concern, with the frequency of autism spectrum disorders
16 now surpassing that of all types of cancer combined; and
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18 **Whereas**, while autism is not a curable disorder, recent studies have shown that
19 early intervention can have dramatic results for children which allows them to enjoy a productive
20 and independent life; and
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22 **Whereas**, because many insurance companies and government assistance does not
23 fully cover the costs of services associated with autism, many families are spending in excess of
24 \$40,000 to \$70,000 a year for services for their children; and

25 **Whereas**, during the month of April the autism community around the United
26 States will be involved in many activities to increase awareness of autism:
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28 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
29 Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
30 concurring therein, hereby recognize April 27, 2005, as "Autism Awareness Day" and the month
31 of April 2005 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Missouri.