



## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-036

BY SENATOR(S) Zenzinger, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Grantham;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Buckner, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.

CONCERNING DESIGNATING APRIL 2017 AS "AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH".

WHEREAS, Autism is a neurological disorder that can typically be diagnosed in children around the age of 2 or 3. There is currently no cure for and no known cause of autism, and the rate of diagnosis continues to increase by 10 to 17 percent each year.

WHEREAS, The autism spectrum disorder includes autism, Asperger syndrome, pervasive developmental disorder, Rett syndrome, and childhood disintegrative disorder; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest research on the prevalence rate of autism reveals that today one in 68 school-aged children is impacted by autism and, of that population, one in 42 is a boy and one in 189 is a girl; and

WHEREAS, A child's diagnosis of autism, if not treated properly, can

lead to a life of struggle, including misdiagnosis, homelessness, mental institutionalization, incarceration, and broken families and homes; and

WHEREAS, State governments have a leadership role to play in raising awareness and increasing public education on the impacts of autism; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

(1) Proclaim the month of April 2017 as "Autism Awareness Month" in the state of Colorado;

(2) Acknowledge the work of Colorado organizations such as Firefly Autism and the Autism Society of Colorado to further the interests of families impacted by autism; and

(3) Encourage the work of the United States Congress and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to assist the people of Colorado who are affected by autism.

*Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Firefly Autism, the Autism Society of Colorado, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

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Kevin J. Grantham  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Crisanta Duran  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Effie Ameen  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES