

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R17-1178.01 Erin Enders x3205

**SJR17-036**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Zenzinger,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Buckner,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-036**

101      **CONCERNING DESIGNATING APRIL 2017 AS "AUTISM AWARENESS**  
102            **MONTH".**

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

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

8            WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's  
9            latest research on the prevalence rate of autism reveals that today one in  
10          68 school-aged children is impacted by autism and, of that population,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 one in 42 is a boy and one in 189 is a girl; and

2 WHEREAS, A child's diagnosis of autism, if not treated properly,  
3 can lead to a life of struggle, including misdiagnosis, homelessness,  
4 mental institutionalization, incarceration, and broken families and homes;  
5 and

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

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

11 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

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

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

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

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