

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 381

WHEREAS, April is World Autism Month, and April 4, 2023, is being set aside as Texas Autism Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, providing a fitting opportunity to honor the Autism Society of America and the Autism Society of Texas for their outstanding work to promote better understanding of autism; and

WHEREAS, Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood, and it can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, about 1 in every 44 children in the United States is identified with autism spectrum disorder, compared with 1 in 150 three decades ago; and

WHEREAS, One of the oldest autism-focused grassroots organizations in the United States, ASA launched a nationwide effort in 1970 to promote autism awareness and improve the quality of life for those affected by the disorder; the organization went on to establish a branch in Texas in 1990, and since then, ASA and AST have supported and empowered countless Texans through initiatives such as the Navigating Autism helpline, in-person and virtual support groups, and education and advocacy efforts; today, the organizations have expanded their missions to emphasize the importance of promoting inclusivity and accepting those in the autism community; and

WHEREAS, The cause of autism is unknown, but therapy and support services can dramatically improve outcomes; early diagnosis and intervention are crucial to help people living with autism use their skills and talents to reach their full potential; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby recognize April 4, 2023, as Texas Autism Advocacy Day at the State Capitol and encourage all Texans to learn more about autism; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That official copies of this Resolution be prepared for the Autism Society of America and the Autism Society of Texas as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Zaffirini

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 4, 2023.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate