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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, April 2021 is Autism Awareness Month, and this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to promote education about autism and issues within the autism community; and

WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder encompasses a range of health conditions that can cause social, communication, and behavioral challenges; people experience the disorder to varying degrees, and symptoms can include being nonverbal, engaging in atypical speech patterns and repetitive behaviors, and having significantly high or low levels of sensitivity to various sensory stimuli; ASD lasts throughout an individual's life, and early diagnosis can ensure that those affected receive the treatment and intervention services they need, such as speech therapy, social skills training, and assistive technology; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1 in every 54 children is affected by autism, compared with 1 in 125 in 2004; although the cause of the disorder is unknown, the CDC outlines numerous factors that increase the risk of a child having ASD, including genetic conditions, family history with autism, and certain medications taken during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, More work remains to be done in understanding this complex health issue, in improving procedures for diagnosis, and in supporting individuals with autism, and the observance of Autism Awareness Month unites Texans in their commitment to these efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April 2021 as Autism Awareness Month and encourage all residents of the Lone Star State to learn more about autism spectrum disorder.