

By: Cunningham

H.R. No. 264

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Profound autism is a subtype of autism spectrum
2 disorder characterized by severe intellectual disability and
3 significant difficulties with communication; and

4 WHEREAS, The tasks of daily living may be especially
5 challenging for children and adults with profound autism, and they
6 require around-the-clock supervision and assistance from an adult
7 caregiver throughout their lives; many are nonverbal and may need
8 various therapies and interventions to improve their overall
9 development and quality of life; and

10 WHEREAS, According to a study published by the U.S. Centers
11 for Disease Control and Prevention in 2023, profound autism affects
12 approximately one in every four children with autism; compared to
13 children with non-profound autism, children with profound autism
14 are more likely to be female, to be from racial and ethnic minority
15 groups, to be of low socioeconomic status, and to be born preterm or
16 with low birth weight; these children are also more likely to
17 exhibit self-injurious behaviors, to experience seizure disorders,
18 and to have lower adaptive scores than their peers; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite the prevalence of the condition, people with
20 profound autism are frequently excluded from home- and
21 community-based services due to their intensive support needs,
22 leaving caregivers with few options to help them manage or cope with
23 their responsibilities; a 2019 study conducted by the CDC also
24 found that only six percent of clinical research studies included

1 people with profound autism as participants; and

2 WHEREAS, People living with profound autism and their
3 caregivers often face isolation in our communities, and it is
4 important that we work together to promote greater support and
5 inclusion, as well as greater consideration of their unique needs;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
8 Legislature hereby recognize March 17, 2025, as Profound Autism
9 Awareness Day and encourage Texans to learn more about profound
10 autism.