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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Illinois State Board of Education has reported that today there are more than twice as many children in Illinois diagnosed with autism as there were only five years ago; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that fewer than one in ten children with autism receive the level and type of services recommended by the National Research Council; and

WHEREAS, Families of children with autism bear an enormous financial burden of providing needed services and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Public entities such as the Illinois Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project and private entities like Giant Steps of Illinois provide educational and therapeutic services to enable children with autism to achieve their maximum potential and strive to improve a child's ability to interact, communicate, and develop academic and daily life skills; these groups work cooperatively with local school districts to reintegrate students with autism into their home school on a full-time or part-time basis based on the individual needs of the student; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we name the month of April 2006 as Autism Awareness Month in the State of Illinois, and we recognize and commend the parents and relatives of children with autism for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of children with autism and for absorbing significant financial costs for specialized education and support services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we support the goals of expanding supports

1 and services for individuals with autism across their lifespan,
2 promoting understanding of the special needs of people with
3 autism, and promoting their inclusion in their communities,
4 increasing federal, State, and private funding for aggressive
5 research to learn the root causes of autism and the best
6 methods of early intervention and treatment; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the Autism Society of Illinois, the Illinois
9 Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project, and Giant
10 Steps of Illinois.