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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The month of April is designated nationally and
3 internationally as Autism Awareness Month; and

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WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) affect a growing
5 number of Illinois residents and their families; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control, the
7 prevalence of ASDs has increased from 1 in 150 just a few years
8 ago to 1 in 88 today; and

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10 WHEREAS, Based on these figures, more than 30,000 school
age children in Illinois have an Autism Spectrum Disorder; and

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WHEREAS, In 2003, to improve our State's response to
12 autism, the Illinois General Assembly passed Public Act 93-395,
13 creating The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP); and

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WHEREAS, TAP brings together universities and nonprofit
15 organizations from across Illinois to implement a system of
16 care for those with an ASD; and

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WHEREAS, Over the past 10 years, TAP has grown and
18 developed into the largest statewide autism resource and
19 service network in the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, TAP currently operates centers or other programs
2 in partnership with the University of Illinois -
3 Urbana/Champaign, the University of Illinois - Chicago,
4 Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University,
5 Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago, Easter Seals Rockford,
6 Easter Seals Peoria/Bloomington, RCADD - Chicago, Trinity
7 Services, Kreider Services, the Charleston Transitional
8 Facility, UCP Heartland, FASTT - Maryville, Little Friends,
9 Inc., Have Dreams, and the Hope Institute; and

10 WHEREAS, TAP has provided direct services to more than
11 7,000 Illinois families and trained more than 61,000 family
12 members, educators, health care providers, day care providers,
13 and first responders; and

14 WHEREAS, The TAP service model has been validated by
15 researchers at Baylor University; many major national
16 organizations have sought partnership with TAP; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite TAP's many accomplishments, there remains
18 much unmet need, with more work to be done in Illinois;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate the members of TAP and its many partners for
2 their dedicated service to the families of Illinois and pledge
3 our continuing support to Illinois families impacted by autism;
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we designate the date of April 2, 2014 as
6 World Autism Awareness Day in the State of Illinois.