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1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 218

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

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

6 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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Over the past 10 years, TAP has grown and
19 developed into the largest statewide autism resource and

1 service network in the nation; and

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

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

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

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

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate April 25,
2 2013, as World Autism Awareness Day in the State of Illinois,
3 congratulate the members of TAP and its many partners on the
4 occasion of its 10th anniversary, and pledge our continuing
5 support to Illinois families impacted by autism.