

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(4-4) On motion of Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1333) (Cosponsored by Senator VOLK of Cumberland and Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, ALLEY of Beals, AUSTIN of Skowhegan, BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, BAILEY of Saco, BATES of Westbrook, BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, BLUME of York, BROOKS of Lewiston, BRYANT of Windham, CARDONE of Bangor, CASÁS of Rockport, CEBRA of Naples, CHAPMAN of Brooksville, COLLINGS of Portland, COOPER of Yarmouth, DeCHANT of Bath, DENNO of Cumberland, DEVIN of Newcastle, DOORE of Augusta, DUCHESNE of Hudson, DUNPHY of Old Town, FAY of Raymond, FECTEAU of Biddeford, FREY of Bangor, Speaker GIDEON of Freeport, GINZLER of Bridgton, GRANT of Gardiner, GROHMAN of Biddeford, HANDY of Lewiston, HARLOW of Portland, HICKMAN of Winthrop, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, HYMANSON of York, KORNFIELD of Bangor, LAWRENCE of Eliot, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, LUCHINI of Ellsworth, MADIGAN of Waterville, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, MARTIN of Sinclair, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth, NADEAU of Winslow, O'NEIL of Saco, PARKER of South Berwick, PIERCE of Falmouth, RECKITT of South Portland, RILEY of Jay, SAMPSON of Alfred, SANBORN of Portland, SCHNECK of Bangor, SHEATS of Auburn, STANLEY of Medway, SYLVESTER of Portland, TEPLER of Topsham, TERRY of Gorham, TUCKER of Brunswick, WARREN of Hallowell, ZEIGLER of Montville, Senators: BELLOWS of Kennebec, BREEN of Cumberland, CARPENTER of Aroostook, CARSON of Cumberland, CHENETTE of York, CHIPMAN of Cumberland, DESCHAMBAULT of York, DIAMOND of Cumberland, DILL of Penobscot, DION of Cumberland, GRATWICK of Penobscot, HILL of York, JACKSON of Aroostook, KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of Hancock, LIBBY of Androscoggin, MAKER of Washington, MASON of Androscoggin, MILLETT of Cumberland, MIRAMANT of Knox, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, WOODSOME of York)

### **JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2018 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, autism is a spectrum disorder, which means no 2 people with autism are affected the same way, and it is a complex developmental disability that usually appears during the first 3 years of life and results in a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain and social interaction and communication skills; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, one in 68 children is diagnosed with this spectrum disorder and prevalence has increased 30% since the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's study in 2008; and

WHEREAS, autism knows no racial, ethnic or social boundaries and neither income nor lifestyle nor education affects its occurrence and it is estimated that more than 3,500,000 people live with autism spectrum disorder in the United States; and

WHEREAS, autism costs the United States over \$137,000,000,000 in annual health care costs, most of which are in adult services, and these costs are anticipated to increase; and

WHEREAS, while a single specific cause of autism is not known, current research links it to biological or neurological differences in the brain, and outdated theories and myths, such as autism being a mental illness, have been proven to be false; and

WHEREAS, with support, people with autism can live full lives and make meaningful contributions to society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, pause in our deliberations to acknowledge that the month of April 2018 is Autism Awareness Month and to pledge our support and encouragement to all those affected by autism; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Autism Society of Maine as a token of our respect and support.

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