

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES

Ken Cooley, Chair

ACR 73 (Frazier) – As Introduced April 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Autism Awareness Month.

**SUMMARY:** Designates the month of April 2021 as Autism Awareness Month and encourages residents to show support for autism awareness. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that manifests during the first few years of a child's life and results from a neurological disorder that affects brain function. Autism affects children from all countries, regardless of gender, race, or socio-economic status.
- 2) Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can affect an individual's social, communication, and behavioral skills. In 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that approximately one out of every 54 children in the United States is diagnosed with ASD.
- 3) Young adults with ASD are less likely to continue their education past secondary school and 25 percent do not have a job or pursue higher education after leaving high school.
- 4) Autism affects people from all backgrounds, but disproportionately affects minority and economically disadvantaged communities due to the cost and inaccessibility of autism care. Medical expenses for children with ASD are shown to be four to six times greater than those without ASD.
- 5) While there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive treatment early in their lives, it is often possible for those individuals to lead significantly improved lives. And, while there is no diagnostic test for ASD, the increased awareness of autism and the detection services available today make it possible for more people to be properly diagnosed with ASD.
- 6) ASD is not becoming more pervasive, but rather, the increased accessibility to services and professionals is assisting individuals in the diagnosis process.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800