



H.Res. 1106 – Expressing support for designation of April 2008 as 'National Autism Awareness Month' and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1106 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative David Reichert (R-WA) on April 14, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1106 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 19, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1106 resolves that the House of Representatives encourages all Americans to:

- Expresses support for designation of a 'National Autism Awareness Month';
- Recognizes and commends 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;
- Supports the goal of devoting new resources to researching the root causes of autism, identifying the best methods of early intervention and treatment, expanding programs for individuals with autism across their lifespans, and promoting understanding of the special needs of people with autism;
- Stresses the need to begin early intervention services soon after a child has been diagnosed with autism, noting that early intervention strategies are the primary therapeutic options for young people with autism, and that early intervention significantly improves the outcome for people with autism and can reduce the level of funding and services needed to treat people with autism later in life;
- Recognizes the shortage of appropriately trained teachers who have the skills and support necessary to teach, assist, and respond to special needs students, including those with autism, in our school systems; and
- Recognizes the importance of worker training programs that are tailored to the needs of developmentally disabled persons, including those with autism, and notes that people with autism can be, and are, productive members of the workforce if they are given appropriate support, training, and early intervention services.

BACKGROUND

Autism is one of five developmental disabilities known as autism spectrum disorders. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 560,000 individuals between the ages of 0 and 21 have an autism spectrum disorder.



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, autism is characterized by impaired social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and unusual, repetitive, or severely limited activities and interests. There is no known cause for autism, but scientists believe that genetic and environmental factors play a role. Autism was first identified by Dr. Leo Kanner of the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1934.

STAFF CONTACT

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