



HJ0039

LRB104 13687 LAW 26365 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and
3 Prevention (CDC) reported that one in every group of 31
4 eight-year-old children is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum
5 Disorder (ASD); and

6 WHEREAS, ASD encompasses a broad and diverse population of
7 individuals with unique strengths, support needs,
8 communication styles, and lived experiences; and

9 WHEREAS, Autism occurs across all racial, ethnic,
10 socioeconomic, and geographic backgrounds; and

11 WHEREAS, Scientific research has identified multiple
12 factors that may increase the likelihood of an autism
13 diagnosis, including environmental, biological, and genetic
14 factors; and

15 WHEREAS, Outdated language that frames autism as a
16 "chronic disease" or "epidemic" misrepresents the experience
17 of Autistic individuals and fuels stigma, discrimination, and
18 systemic barriers; and

19 WHEREAS, Neurodiversity, including autism, enhances
20 communities through a broader range of perspectives,

1 innovations, and creative contributions; and

2 WHEREAS, Effective public policy must be informed by the
3 voices of Autistic individuals, their families, disability-led
4 organizations, researchers, and practitioners to ensure it is
5 evidence-based, community-informed, and aligned with human
6 rights principles; and

7 WHEREAS, A growing number of autism diagnoses requires not
8 alarm but action, specifically, investment in accessible,
9 early, and culturally affirming supports that reflect the
10 diversity of Illinois families, regardless of income, zip
11 code, language, or identity; and

12 WHEREAS, It is imperative that Illinois continues to
13 strive toward equitable systems of care, education, and
14 opportunity that center the lived experiences of Autistic
15 individuals and affirm their humanity, autonomy, and
16 belonging; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
19 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we reaffirm our commitment to
20 upholding the health, dignity, and civil rights of all people
21 with disabilities, including Autistic individuals across the
22 spectrum of strengths, needs, and identities; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That we recognize and honor the rightful
3 presence, contributions, and leadership of neurodivergent
4 individuals in inclusive schools, workplaces, and communities
5 throughout every stage of life.