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5/8/01 Adopted

FILED APR 25 2001

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY HORN

1 A Resolution urging the Iowa Department of Education's
2 program, Regional Autism Services program, to continue
3 compiling and maintaining yearly records regarding
4 individuals with autism and related disorders.

5 WHEREAS, autism is a developmental disorder that
6 typically affects a person's ability to communicate,
7 form relationships with others, and respond
8 appropriately to the environment; and

9 WHEREAS, some people with autism are relatively
10 high-functioning, with communicative speech and
11 intelligence a strength for a small percentage; others
12 may be nonverbal, and have cognitive delays ranging
13 from mild to severe; all appear to have difficulties
14 with social interaction to some degree and often
15 exhibit a narrow repertoire of interests and
16 abilities, showing repetitive behaviors and rigid
17 patterns of thinking that interfere with learning; and

18 WHEREAS, the medical diagnosis of autism is made
19 when a specified number of characteristics listed in
20 the DSM-IV or ICD-9 diagnostic tools, are present, in
21 ranges perhaps similar to significantly below the
22 child's age, and diagnosis usually occurs between the
23 ages three and five; and

24 WHEREAS, there are other pervasive developmental
25 disabilities, including Rett's Disorder, Childhood
26 Disintegrative Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and
27 Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise
28 Specified, each category of symptoms creating an

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1 individualized set of social, learning, and behavioral
2 differences; and

3 WHEREAS, while there are no known specific causes
4 of these pervasive developmental disorders, some
5 research suggests that causes might include physical
6 problems affecting those parts of the brain that
7 process language and information received through the
8 senses, imbalances of certain chemicals in the brain,
9 and genetic factors; and

10 WHEREAS, autism may also result from a combination
11 of several causes, but factors in the psychological
12 environment of the child do not cause autism; and

13 WHEREAS, autism and associated disorders affect as
14 many as one in 500 individuals, according to the
15 United States Centers for Disease Control and
16 Prevention as of 1997; and

17 WHEREAS, autism is four times more prevalent in
18 boys than girls and knows no racial, ethnic, or social
19 boundaries, and family income, lifestyle, and
20 educational levels do not affect the chance of
21 autism's occurrence; and

22 WHEREAS, the autism prognosis is variable from
23 independent to various levels of supported living and
24 work, and may be compromised by associated conditions
25 including seizure disorder, mental retardation, Down's
26 Syndrome, or genetic disorders such as Fragile X
27 Syndrome, Landau-Kleffner Syndrome, William's
28 Syndrome, or Tourette's Syndrome; and

29 WHEREAS, caring for and educating children and
30 adults with autism and related disorders often require

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1 a considerable dedication of emotional and financial
2 resources by parents, caretakers, schools, community
3 providers, or community organizations; and

4 WHEREAS, the bipartisan Congressional Coalition for
5 Autism Research and Education (C.A.R.E.) has been
6 formed with the goal of increasing autism awareness,
7 educating lawmakers and policymakers, providing a
8 forum in which autism issues can be debated and
9 discussed, and expanding federal research into autism
10 spectrum disorders; and

11 WHEREAS, to ensure that planning for the welfare
12 and development of persons with autism and related
13 disorders is more meaningful, need exists for the
14 Regional Autism Services program, a program supported
15 by school laws of Iowa through the Iowa Department of
16 Education to continue to collect data on the estimated
17 overall number of individuals with autism spectrum
18 disorders in the educational arena, supported by
19 Medicare Part B and Part C services; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the members of
21 Iowa's congressional delegation to the United States
22 House of Representatives are encouraged to become a
23 part of the Coalition for Autism Research and
24 Education.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon adoption, the
26 Secretary of the Senate shall send a copy of this
27 Resolution to Representatives Leonard L. Boswell, Greg
28 Ganske, Tom Latham, Jim Leach, and Jim Nussle.

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