

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Olthoff, Greene, Goss-Reaves, Cash, Huston, Abbott, Andrade, Aylesworth, Bartels, Bartlett, Bauer, Novak, Clere, Criswell, Dant Chesser, Davis, Engleman, GiaQuinta, Haggard, Harris, Heaton, Isa, Jackson C, Judy, Lawson, Ledbetter, Lindauer, Miller D, Miller K, Morris, Pack, Pfaff, Prescott, Pressel, Pryor, Rowray, Shackelford, Soliday, Teshka, VanNatter, Zimmerman

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing March 17, 2026,
2 as Profound Autism Day and April as National Autism Month.

3 *Whereas, Autism is a lifelong neurological condition*
4 *encompassing a wide range of lived experiences, and growing*
5 *awareness has shown that some autistic individuals require*
6 *minimal support while others require significant, around-the-*
7 *clock care;*

8 *Whereas, The term profound autism has emerged to*
9 *provide clarity regarding autistic individuals with particularly*
10 *intensive support needs, including those who may require*
11 *continuous assistance from an adult caregiver and who may*
12 *experience significant intellectual, communication, or adaptive*
13 *challenges;*



1 *Whereas, Individuals with profound autism are frequently*
2 *underrepresented or excluded from research initiatives, service*
3 *systems, and public policy discussions due to the complexity*
4 *and intensity of their needs;*

5 *Whereas, In April 2023, the Centers for Disease Control*
6 *and Prevention released its first national prevalence study on*
7 *profound autism, finding that approximately one in four*
8 *8-year-old children with autism in the United States meet the*
9 *criteria for profound autism;*

10 *Whereas, The study also found that children with profound*
11 *autism are more likely to come from economically*
12 *disadvantaged backgrounds and, compared with children with*
13 *non-profound autism, often face greater medical,*
14 *developmental, and social challenges that increase support*
15 *needs and contribute to isolation for both individuals and their*
16 *families;*

17 *Whereas, Individuals with profound autism and those who*
18 *care for them are part of our communities, and the families,*
19 *caregivers, educators, and professionals who support them play*
20 *an essential role that deserves recognition and support; and*

21 *Whereas, Meaningful inclusion of individuals with*
22 *profound autism requires deliberate acknowledgment of their*
23 *unique challenges and a commitment to ensuring that public*
24 *awareness, research efforts, and support systems reflect the full*
25 *diversity of the autism spectrum: Therefore,*

26 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
27 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

28 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
29 recognizes March 17, 2026, as Profound Autism Day, and April
30 as National Autism Month, to honor individuals with autism
31 across the spectrum, including those with profound autism, and
32 to encourage greater understanding, inclusion, and support for
33 them and for those who provide lifelong care.

34 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
35 Representative shall transmit copies of this resolution to State



- 1 Representative Julie Olthoff for distribution.

