

Date of Hearing: April 27, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Blanca Pacheco, Chair  
SCR 149 (Valladares) – As Introduced March 23, 2026

**SENATE VOTE:** 38-0

**SUBJECT:** World Autism Awareness Day.

**SUMMARY:** Designates April 2, 2026, as World Autism Awareness Day; and, recognizes the importance of expanding access to early intervention services, inclusive education, employment opportunities, and community-based supports to empower individuals with ASD and their families. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network reports that approximately 1 in 31 children and 1 in 45 adults have been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), highlighting the urgent need for continued awareness, research, and support.
- 2) ASD is a lifelong developmental condition resulting from neurological differences that affect brain function, impacting individuals in diverse ways across all backgrounds, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.
- 3) Individuals with ASD experience a wide range of strengths and challenges, often including differences in social communication, sensory processing, and patterns of behavior or interest, which require individualized support and understanding from their communities.
- 4) Early diagnosis and intervention are key to ensuring individuals with ASD have access to critical resources, therapies, and educational opportunities that foster development, independence, and well-being.
- 5) Raising a child with ASD comes with significant financial and emotional challenges for families, with annual costs estimated at \$60,000 per child and lifetime support for individuals with severe ASD potentially exceeding \$3 million, reinforcing the need for accessible healthcare, education, and community support systems.
- 6) The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities affirm the right of individuals with ASD and other disabilities to live with dignity, enjoy full participation in society, and access the same fundamental freedoms and opportunities as all individuals.
- 7) The observance of World Autism Awareness Day serves as a call to action for communities, educators, employers, healthcare providers, and policymakers to foster inclusivity, expand resources, and create pathways for individuals with ASD to thrive.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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