

1 A RESOLUTION declaring April 2022 as Autism Acceptance Month.

2 WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder is a complex, lifelong developmental
3 disorder that can impact an individual's social skills, communications, and relationships
4 and can vary in severity based on the individual; and

5 WHEREAS, autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the United
6 States, with 1 in 54 children being diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder; and

7 WHEREAS, there are over 5 million people in the United States with autism and, as
8 of 2019, over 80,000 Kentuckians diagnosed with autism; and

9 WHEREAS, autism disorders can affect all persons regardless of race, religion,
10 socioeconomic status, or geography; and

11 WHEREAS, there is a continued need for acceptance of those with autism through
12 improving support and opportunities in education, employment, housing, health care, and
13 long-term services; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1972, the Autism Society, the nation's oldest grassroots autism
15 organization, launched the first National Autistic Children's week, which grew into
16 Autism Awareness Month; and

17 WHEREAS, April is now recognized as Autism Acceptance Month to increase
18 awareness about autism signs and symptoms and promote acceptance of individuals with
19 autism; and

20 WHEREAS, during April 2022, the aim of Autism Acceptance Month is to
21 celebrate differences and build an inclusive society for individuals with autism to live
22 fully through connection and acceptance;

23 NOW, THEREFORE,

24 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
25 ***Kentucky:***

26 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby recognize April 2022 as Autism
27 Acceptance Month in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

- 1 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
- 2 Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas.