

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing March 17, 2026, as Profound Autism Day in
2 Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, the definition of autism has evolved over the years, creating an
4 increasingly heterogeneous spectrum; and

5 WHEREAS, while the entire spectrum deserves recognition and support, profound
6 autism is a term intended to provide clarification about autistic people who require 24/7
7 care from an adult caregiver throughout their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, people with profound autism can have a severe intellectual disability
9 or have minimal or no language; and

10 WHEREAS, people with profound autism are frequently excluded from research
11 and support programs because of their unique needs; and

12 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control released their first prevalence study on
13 profound autism in April 2023. The research concluded that the percentage of eight-year-
14 old children with profound autism among those with autism in the United States was 26.7
15 percent, which means that more than one in four children with autism have profound
16 autism; and

17 WHEREAS, compared with children with non-profound autism, children with
18 profound autism were more likely to be female, from racial and ethnic minority groups,
19 of low socioeconomic status, born preterm or with low birth weight, have self-injurious
20 behaviors, have seizure disorders, and have lower adaptive scores; and

21 WHEREAS, people with profound autism and those who care for them live in our
22 midst, frequently in isolation, and need our inclusion and support. Specific consideration
23 of their unique challenges is critical;

24 NOW, THEREFORE,

25 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
26 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

27 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives do hereby recognize

- 1 March 17, 2026, as Profound Autism Day in Kentucky.
- 2 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
3 recognition and support of people with profound autism and those who care for them.
- 4 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
5 copy of this Resolution to Representative DJ Johnson for delivery.