

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 Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
26 *Kentucky:*

27       ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate do hereby recognize March 17, 2026, as

- 1 Profound Autism Day in Kentucky.
- 2 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in recognition and support of people with profound autism and those who care for them.
- 3 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
- 4 Resolution to Senator Stephen Meredith for delivery.