

Introduced by Senator Correa

April 15, 2013

Senate Resolution No. 13—Relative to Autism Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) now impact
2 one out of every 50 children in the United States, with an incidence
3 rate that is four times greater in boys, and are the fastest growing
4 serious developmental disability, making these disorders more
5 common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and acquired
6 immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) combined; and

7 WHEREAS, The prevalence of autism is increasing by 10 to
8 17 percent annually and ASDs cost the nation over \$35 billion per
9 year, and is estimated to exceed \$200 billion in 10 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Most school districts in California have seen a
11 doubling of students with ASDs in the past five years. The number
12 of Californians with ASDs who are served by the State Department
13 of Developmental Services now exceeds 60,000, which is a number
14 that has increased fivefold since 1998, and is more than 12 times
15 what it was in 1987; and

16 WHEREAS, Many Californians are not adequately informed
17 about ASDs and the value and importance of early identification,
18 assessment, and treatment of these disorders; and

19 WHEREAS, Current scientific research demonstrates that the
20 early identification of and intervention with children with ASDs
21 can result in significant positive outcomes in many children with
22 ASDs; and

23 WHEREAS, Parents and family members have made invaluable
24 contributions through their commitment, care, and advocacy, to
25 important advances in research, education, and treatment for
26 individuals with ASDs; and

1 WHEREAS, Public information and awareness efforts are of
2 paramount importance in accelerating early identification efforts
3 and the proliferation of early intervention programs and services;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Senate Select Committee on Autism and
6 Related Disorders has appointed regional autism taskforces that
7 are comprised of consumers and their family members, advocates,
8 providers, researchers, and other experts in the area of ASDs, and
9 other stakeholders, to provide assistance to, and to support the
10 work of, the select committee. Senator Steinberg, as Chair of the
11 Senate Select Committee on Autism and Related Disorders, has
12 established the Statewide Taskforce on Equity and Diversity to
13 ensure that all Californians have equitable and fair access to
14 state-funded services and that these services are provided in a
15 linguistically and culturally competent manner; and

16 WHEREAS, California has been the established leader in
17 providing services and support for the early identification,
18 assessment, intervention, education, and treatment of individuals
19 with ASDs that began with the passage of landmark state
20 legislation, such as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities
21 Services Act in 1977 and Assembly Bill 3854 (Chapter 1527 of
22 the Statutes of 1974), relating to autism and public education; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2011, Governor Brown signed into law Senate
24 Bill 946 (Chapter 650 of the Statutes of 2011), California's
25 landmark bill, authored by Senator Steinberg, which required health
26 care coverage for behavioral health treatment for children with
27 autism and pervasive developmental disorders; and

28 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 946 is estimated to provide coverage
29 for around 125,000 Californians with ASDs, with savings to
30 California taxpayers estimated to range from \$138.8 million to
31 \$197.8 million annually; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved*, by the Senate of the State of California, That the
33 Senate recognizes and commends the work of all nonprofit
34 organizations that are contributing to the well-being of individuals
35 with autism and their families; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Senate supports the goal of increasing
37 research to learn the root causes of autism and identify the best
38 methods of early intervention and treatment, expand programs for
39 individuals with autism across their lifespan, and promote

1 understanding of the special needs of people with autism; and be
2 it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Senate stresses the need to identify children
4 with ASDs and to begin early intervention services immediately
5 after a child has been diagnosed with autism, and that these
6 services, interventions, and supports for individuals with ASDs
7 and their families be provided in an integrated, seamless,
8 comprehensive, and competent manner and delivered across the
9 child's lifespan; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes and commends the parents
11 and relatives of individuals with ASDs for their sacrifice and
12 dedication in providing for the special needs of individuals with
13 ASDs; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Senate is committed to providing early
15 screening, diagnosis, assessment, and treatment for ASDs in a
16 manner that is equitable for all Californians, including, but not
17 limited to, individuals and families who reside in underserved
18 communities; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, by the Senate of the State of California, That the
20 Senate designates April 2013 as California Autism Awareness
21 Month, affirms its commitment to the important issues related to
22 ASDs, and emphasizes that each and every individual with an ASD
23 is a valued and important member of our society; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit two copies
25 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.