

BY: Senator AKSHAR

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
April 2022, as Autism Acceptance Month in the State
of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of important issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2022, as Autism Acceptance Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, A diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) now includes several conditions that used to be diagnosed separately: autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States; 1 in 44 children are diagnosed with ASD, and there are more than 5 million individuals living with ASD in the United States according to estimates from the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network; and

WHEREAS, Although autism impacts people regardless of race or ethnicity, there are racial and ethnic disparities in diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, According to the CDC, ADDM reports have consistently noted more white children are identified with ASD than black or Hispanic children; previous studies have shown that stigma, lack of access to healthcare services due to non-citizenship or low-income, and non-English as primary language are potential barriers to the identification of children with ASD, especially among Hispanic children; and

WHEREAS, Currently, boys are also approximately 4.5 times more likely to have an autism diagnosis than girls of the same age; however, recent research suggests girls may not show autism in the same way as boys and might go undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, the Autism Society of America began a nationwide awareness campaign which was adopted by Congress in 1984; and

WHEREAS, While there is currently no known single cause of autism, early diagnosis helps a person receive the support and services they need, which can lead to a quality life filled with opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Each April for the past five decades, National Autism Awareness Month has educated the public about autism and the challenges of those within the autism community; and

WHEREAS, The goal of Autism Awareness Month was to promote autism awareness and assure that all affected by autism are able to achieve the highest quality of life possible, which has now evolved into Autism Acceptance Month to continue those efforts to spread awareness and also promote acceptance and ignite change; and

WHEREAS, Those in the autism community still face significant unmet needs and it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health issue, this year we continue our efforts to build a better awareness of the signs, symptoms, and realities of autism, and also provide information and resources for communities to be more aware of autism, promote acceptance, and be more inclusive in everyday life at the local, State and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2022, as Autism Acceptance Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Autism Acceptance Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.