

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

Senators Hertel, Geiss, Chang, Brinks, Bayer, Horn, Alexander, Bizon, Bumstead, Daley, Hollier, Irwin, LaSata, Lauwers, MacDonald, McBroom, McCann, Moss, Nesbitt, Outman, Polehanki, Santana, Stamas, VanderWall, Victory, Wojno and Zorn offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to recognize April 2021 as Autism Acceptance  
2 Month.

3           Whereas, Autism is a developmental disorder characterized by  
4 difficulties with social interaction and communication; and

5           Whereas, 1 in 54 individuals are diagnosed with autism and  
6 there are over 3.5 million people in the United States who have  
7 autism. No matter where these individuals are at on the spectrum,  
8 they are all unique and talented in every way; and

9           Whereas, Michigan is home to some of the most incredible

1 individuals who made history while also being on the autism  
2 spectrum, including:

- 3 • Kodi Lee, 2019 winner of America's Got Talent;
- 4 • Armani Williams, the first driver with autism in  
5 National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR)  
6 history;
- 7 • Xavier DeGroat, the first known White House intern with  
8 autism;
- 9 • Walker Aurand, the first American Collegiate Hockey  
10 Association (ACHA) hockey player with autism at  
11 Davenport University;
- 12 • Anthony Ianni, the first Division One college basketball  
13 player with autism in National Collegiate Athletic  
14 Association (NCAA) history, playing for Coach Tom Izzo  
15 and the Michigan State Spartans; and

16 Whereas, Since 1970, April has been recognized as Autism  
17 Awareness Month. Beginning in April 2007, the United Nations  
18 recognized April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day; and

19 Whereas, There is a need for more acceptance in the autism  
20 community. Families and advocates within the community believe that  
21 bringing more awareness to those outside the autism community is  
22 not enough. It is time for the autism community to gain the  
23 acceptance that it rightfully deserves from society both as a  
24 community and as individuals; and

25 Whereas, The purpose of Autism Acceptance Month is to increase  
26 public acceptance and appreciation of the diverse range of  
27 abilities and talents of those who are on the autism spectrum, as  
28 well as families, educators, advocates, and providers affected by  
29 it; now, therefore, be it

1           Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
2 body recognize April 2021 as Autism Acceptance Month; and be it  
3 further

4           Resolved, That we join with the individuals and loved ones in  
5 the autism community to support their endeavor for much deserved  
6 acceptance of their abilities and talents, but more importantly,  
7 acceptance as individuals.