

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

Senators Hertel, Geiss, Chang and Brinks 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  
10 individuals who made history while also being on the autism  
11 spectrum, including:

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

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

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

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

28           Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
29 body recognize April 2021 as Autism Acceptance Month; and be it

1 further

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