

Introduced by Senators Ackerman, Burton, and Chesbro

March 17, 2003

Senate Resolution No. 12—Relative to autism.

1 WHEREAS, Autism is a physical disorder of the brain that can
2 cause a lifelong developmental disability; and

3 WHEREAS, Only 10 years ago, it was estimated that autism
4 affected one out of 10,000 children, and current estimates are that
5 autism now affects 10 to 12 out of 10,000 children nationwide; and

6 WHEREAS, The incidence of autism in California rose by 273
7 percent between 1987 and 1998; and

8 WHEREAS, The diagnosis and treatment of autism may require
9 assessment and intervention by a multidisciplinary team of
10 experts; and

11 WHEREAS, The early intervention behavior analysis programs
12 have shown that a program of intensive early intervention and
13 treatment that focuses on multidisciplinary approach relying in
14 large part on family and community participation can produce a
15 positive outcome for persons with autism; and

16 WHEREAS, Current research that is being conducted by the
17 University of California, Davis, funded by grants from the
18 Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders Institute
19 (M.I.N.D.) at the University of California, Davis, and from the
20 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, to examine
21 the genetic and environmental factors that may affect the chances
22 of a child developing autism should be encouraged and supported;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, A recent “Report to the Legislature on the
25 Principal Findings from The Epidemiology of Autism in

1 California: A Comprehensive Pilot Study,” authored by the
2 M.I.N.D. Institute at the University of California, Davis, with Dr.
3 Robert S. Byrd, M.D., M.P.H., as principal investigator, found that
4 children served by the state’s regional centers are largely native
5 born, and that there has been no major migration shift of children
6 into California that would explain an increase in autism; and

7 WHEREAS, The University of California, Irvine, Department
8 of Pediatrics, has developed “For O.C. Kids,” which is a project
9 that provides developmental assessments and treatment for
10 children with autism in Orange County; and

11 WHEREAS, Family based organizations, such as the southern
12 California area Talk About Curing Autism, the Autism Society of
13 America, the Cure Autism Now Foundation, and the Sacramento
14 area Families for Early Autism Treatment, provide invaluable
15 resources and support for children with autism and their families;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Heightened awareness and education about autism
18 help to achieve parental involvement, community integration,
19 early intervention, increased acceptance of children with special
20 needs, and systematic treatment, all of which are key components
21 that would help make a more favorable future likely for a child
22 with autism; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the*
24 *Senate hereby proclaims the month of April 2003, as Autism*
25 *Treatment Awareness Month, and acknowledges the contributions*
26 *made in the area of early autism intervention treatment by experts*
27 *in the field, as well as by the families involved; and be it further*

28 *Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that the M.I.N.D. Institute*
29 *at the University of California, Davis, is unique in investigating*
30 *autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders, and that*
31 *collaborations between researchers and scientists at UC Davis*
32 *bring a wealth of resources to study the gamut of*
33 *neurodevelopmental disorders and to design and test potential*
34 *treatments; and be it further*

35 *Resolved, That the Senate supports the goal of increasing*
36 *federal funding for aggressive research to learn the root causes of*
37 *autism, to identify the best methods of prevention, early*
38 *intervention, and treatment, and to promote understanding of the*
39 *special needs of persons with autism; and be it further*



1 *Resolved*, That the Senate urges the United States Department
2 of Health and Human Services to continue to press for the swift full
3 implementation of the Children’s Health Act of 2000, including
4 particularly the establishment of not less than three “Centers of
5 Excellence” at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
6 not less than five “Centers of Excellence” at the National
7 Institutes of Health, in order to monitor the prevalence of autism
8 at a national level, leading to a better understanding of autism and
9 related disorders; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
11 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
12 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
13 Majority Leader of the United States Senate, to each Senator and
14 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
15 States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health
16 and Human Services, to the State Department of Developmental
17 Services, to the Developmental Disabilities Area Board III, to the
18 State Department of Education, to local chapters of the Autism
19 Society of America, to regional centers, to the Association of
20 Regional Center Agencies, to the Protection and Advocacy, Inc.,
21 to the M.I.N.D. Institute of the University of California, Davis, to
22 For O.C. Kids, to the National Institutes of Health, to the Centers
23 for Disease Control and Prevention, to the California School
24 Boards Association, and to the Developmental Disabilities
25 Council.

