

1 SJR52
2 199653-2
3 By Senator Ward
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 30-APR-19

1 SJR52

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4 ENROLLED, SJR52,

5 URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE AUTISM CARES ACT OF
6 2019.

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8 WHEREAS, in 2006, the Combating Autism Act passed
9 Congress; it provided a coordinated federal response to the
10 dramatically rising number of individuals diagnosed with
11 autism spectrum disorder (ASD); the act was last authorized in
12 2014 and will expire in September 2019 if not reauthorized;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, renamed the Autism CARES (Collaboration,
15 Accountability, Research, Education, and Support) Act, this
16 law has expanded and coordinated federal efforts regarding ASD
17 and is the primary source of federal funding for ASD research,
18 services, training, and monitoring; this law has provided the
19 most comprehensive attention to ASD ever enacted by Congress;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the Autism CARES Act has helped to expand
22 the number of health professionals trained to screen and
23 diagnose ASD and other developmental disabilities and has
24 aided in the development of evidence-based intervention; the
25 law is still needed to address the rising number of

1 individuals diagnosed with ASD and their pressing needs,
2 including health care, education, employment, and home and
3 community-based services and supports; and

4 WHEREAS, ASD can cause significant social,
5 communication, and behavioral challenges; people with ASD
6 communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways different
7 from most other people; the learning, thinking, and
8 problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from
9 gifted to severely challenged; and

10 WHEREAS, the Autism CARES Act has helped to build a
11 critical infrastructure to advance the understanding of autism
12 and those needs continue to increase; Congress recently
13 introduced the Autism CARES Act of 2019 (S. 427/ H.R. 1058),
14 which will continue to fund and support this infrastructure;
15 now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the members of this body join
18 together in urging Congress to support the reauthorization of
19 the Autism CARES Act by enacting the Autism CARES Act of 2019
20 to continue the federal efforts for research and services for
21 people with ASD and the families impacted by ASD.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
23 resolution be made available to each member of the Alabama
24 Congressional Delegation.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR52

Senate 30-APR-19

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 07-MAY-19

By: Senator Ward