

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

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8 URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE AUTISM CARES ACT OF
9 2019.

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11 WHEREAS, in 2006, the Combating Autism Act passed
12 Congress; it provided a coordinated federal response to the
13 dramatically rising number of individuals diagnosed with
14 autism spectrum disorder (ASD); the act was last authorized in
15 2014 and will expire in September 2019 if not reauthorized;
16 and

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

24 WHEREAS, the Autism CARES Act has helped to expand
25 the number of health professionals trained to screen and
26 diagnose ASD and other developmental disabilities and has
27 aided in the development of evidence-based intervention; the

1 law is still needed to address the rising number of
2 individuals diagnosed with ASD and their pressing needs,
3 including health care, education, employment, and home and
4 community-based services and supports; and

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

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

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

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