

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Duncan, Summers, Fry, Alderman

A HOUSE RESOLUTION encouraging the Congress of the United States of America to enact legislation requiring coverage for treatment of pervasive developmental disorders under employee health benefit plans that are regulated under the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). (This resolution was prepared by the Indiana Commission on Autism.)

Whereas, Pervasive developmental disorders, including Asperger's syndrome and autism, are neurological disorders that affect an individual's ability to communicate, understand language, interact, and relate to others;

Whereas, Individuals with a pervasive developmental disorder vary widely in abilities, intelligence, and behaviors;

Whereas, Early diagnosis and treatment is important to the achievement of the maximum functional potential of



individuals who have a pervasive developmental disorder;

Whereas, Coverage for the treatment of a pervasive developmental disorder is not provided under most health benefit plans, including employee health benefit plans that are regulated under ERISA, because such plans are exempt from state regulation;

Whereas, The 2001 Indiana General Assembly enacted HEA 1122-2001, requiring coverage for treatment of pervasive developmental disorders under the Indiana state employee health benefit plans, group accident and sickness insurance policies, and health maintenance organization group contracts issued after June 30, 2001;

Whereas, HEA 1122-2001 requires an offer of coverage for treatment of pervasive developmental disorders under individual accident and sickness insurance policies and health maintenance organization individual contracts issued after June 30, 2001; and

Whereas, The members of the Indiana Commission on Autism and the members of the Indiana General Assembly believe that all health benefit plans, including employee health benefit plans that are regulated under ERISA, should provide coverage for treatment of pervasive developmental disorders: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives encourages the Congress of the United States of America to enact legislation that requires coverage for treatment of pervasive developmental disorders under employee health benefit plans that are regulated under ERISA.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to the members of the



Indiana congressional delegation and the members of the congressional bipartisan autism caucus.

