



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 15-3052, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RECOGNIZING APRIL 2015 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion, and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with autism is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life, and

**WHEREAS**, Autism is a spectrum disorder, which means that no two people with autism are affected in the same way, and it is a complex developmental disability that usually appears during the first three years of life, and

**WHEREAS**, Autism results in a neurological disorder that affects how the brain functions as well as the development of social and communication abilities, and

**WHEREAS**, One in 68 children is diagnosed with this spectrum disorder and its prevalence has increased thirty percent since 2008, and

**WHEREAS**, It is estimated that 1,500,000 people live with autism spectrum disorder in the United States, and

**WHEREAS**, the Autism Society estimates that the United States is facing almost \$90 billion annually in costs for autism, and

**WHEREAS**, while a single specific cause of autism is not yet known, current research links it to biological or neurological differences in the brain, and outdated theories and myths, such as autism being a mental illness, have been scientifically proven to be false, and

**WHEREAS**, with support and understanding, people with autism can live full lives and make meaningful contributions to society; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize April 2015 as Autism Awareness Month in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and an official copy of same be presented to the Autism Society of Illinois.