

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

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By: **Delegates Hurson, Barve, Kopp, Goldwater, Grosfeld, Barkley, and Owings**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Center for Excellence for Autism in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the University of Maryland, the University of Maryland  
4 Medical Center, The Johns Hopkins University, The Johns Hopkins Hospital,  
5 and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to investigate the feasibility  
6 of working collaboratively in the field of autism research with the objective of  
7 establishing joint research and clinical programs that could compete for  
8 National Institutes of Health funding as a Center for Excellence for Autism in  
9 Maryland; and generally relating to the establishment of a Center for Excellence  
10 for Autism in Maryland.

11 WHEREAS, Best estimates indicate that one in 500 children born in the State  
12 will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, a disorder that causes severe  
13 impairments in language and communication; and

14 WHEREAS, There is evidence that the incidence of autism in Maryland is on the  
15 rise; and

16 WHEREAS, The Children's Health Act of 2000 authorizes the National  
17 Institutes of Health to provide up to \$40,000,000 over a 5-year period to public or  
18 nonprofit private entities to establish centers of excellence in autism and pervasive  
19 developmental disabilities epidemiology for the purpose of collecting and analyzing  
20 information on the number, incidence, correlates, and causes of autism and related  
21 developmental disabilities and basic and clinical research into autism, including  
22 investigations into the cause, diagnosis, early detection, prevention, control, and  
23 treatment of autism; and

24 WHEREAS, Centers of excellence under the Children's Health Act of 2000 may  
25 use the facilities of a single institution, or may be formed from a consortium of  
26 cooperating institutions; and

27 WHEREAS, The diverse symptoms and etiology of autism require a high level of  
28 activity in the widest variety of scientific fields, from genetics and neurology to  
29 neuroimaging, immunology, and gastroenterology, if effective treatments and a cure  
30 are to be found quickly; and

1 WHEREAS, The University of Maryland, the University of Maryland Medical  
2 Center, The Johns Hopkins University, and The Johns Hopkins Hospital are top tier  
3 research and medical institutions in Maryland which are already actively involved in  
4 different aspects of autism research and treatment; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
6 University of Maryland, the University of Maryland Medical Center, The Johns  
7 Hopkins University, and The Johns Hopkins University Hospital work in consultation  
8 with one another and with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to  
9 determine the feasibility of establishing a consortium in the field of autism for the  
10 purpose of:

11 (1) collecting and analyzing information on the number, incidence,  
12 correlates, and causes of autism and related developmental disabilities; and

13 (2) performing basic and clinical research into autism, including  
14 investigations into the cause, diagnosis, early detection, prevention, control, and  
15 treatment of autism; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That, if it is determined by these entities that a consortium in one  
17 or both of the research areas discussed is feasible and desirable, that the General  
18 Assembly and the Office of the Governor will provide support as appropriate and  
19 necessary to facilitate the designation of the consortium as a Center for Excellence in  
20 Autism, as that term is defined by the National Institutes of Health; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
22 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;  
23 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and  
24 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.