

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 16, 2001

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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 Health System, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
6 investigate the feasibility of working collaboratively in the field of autism
7 research with the objective of establishing joint research and clinical programs
8 that could compete for National Institutes of Health funding as a Center for
9 Excellence for Autism in Maryland; and generally relating to the establishment
10 of a Center for Excellence 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

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

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

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

12 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
13 University of Maryland, the University of Maryland Medical Center, The Johns
14 Hopkins University, and The Johns Hopkins University ~~Hospital~~ Health System work
15 in consultation with one another and with the Department of Health and Mental
16 Hygiene to determine the feasibility of establishing a consortium in the field of
17 autism for the purpose of:

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

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

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

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