

Proclamation The Board of Supervisors for the County of El Dorado Proclaim April 2007 Autism Awareness Month in El Dorado County

Whereas, autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first three years of life, robbing individuals of their ability to communicate and interact with others; and,

Whereas, autism affects an estimated 1 in every 150 children in the United States, is four times more likely to occur in boys than girls, and can affect anyone, regardless of race ethnicity or other factors; and,

Whereas, it costs approximately \$80,000 per year to treat an individual with autism in a medical center specializing in developmental disabilities; and,

Whereas, the cost of special education programs for school aged children with autism is often more than \$30,000 per individual per year; and,

Whereas, the cost nationally of caring for persons affected by autism is estimated at upwards of \$90,000,000,000 per year; and,

Whereas, despite the fact that autism is one of the most common developmental disorders, many professionals in the medical and educational fields are still unaware of the best methods to diagnose and treat the disorder; and,

Whereas, designating April 2007 as "Autism Awareness Month" in El Dorado County will aid the efforts to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with autism and the family members and medical professionals who care for individuals with autism.

Now therefore be it proclaimed that April 2007, is "Autism Awareness Month" in the County of El Dorado.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 10th day of April, 2007.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors