

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2014, Legislative Day No. 19

Resolution No. 110-14

Mr. John Olszewski, Sr., Councilman

By the County Council, November 17, 2014

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council in support of the efforts of parents, teachers, health care professionals, and government officials to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with autism and their families and caregivers.

WHEREAS, Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that manifests itself during the first three years of life and results from a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, mostly affecting children irrespective of gender, race, or socio-economic status, and characterized by impairments in social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, repetitive behavior, and restricted interests and activities; and

WHEREAS, Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States and the prevalence of autism continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive treatment early in their lives, it often is possible for those individuals to lead significantly improved lives; and

WHEREAS, individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community support services to ensure their health and safety and to support families' resilience as they manage the psychological and financial burdens autism presents, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the County Council of Baltimore County, Maryland, that the County Council:

(1) recognizes and commends the parents and relatives of children with autism for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of children with autism and for absorbing significant financial costs for specialized education and support services;

(2) supports the goal of increasing Federal funding for aggressive research to learn the root causes of autism, identify the best methods of early intervention and treatment, expand programs for individuals with autism across their lifespans, and promote understanding of the special needs of people with autism;

(3) stresses the need to being early intervention services soon after a child has been diagnosed with autism, noting that early intervention strategies are the primary therapeutic options for young people with autism, and that early intervention significantly improves the outcome for people with autism and can reduce the level of funding and services needed to treat people with autism later in life; and

(4) recognizes the importance of worker training programs that are tailored to the needs of developmentally disabled persons, including those with autism, and notes that people with autism can, and are, productive members of the workforce if they are given appropriate support, training, and early intervention services.