

**EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**March 18, 2020**

**RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM APRIL 2020 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

**Introduced by the Health & Human Services Committee**

Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Mulder.

**WHEREAS**, on December 18, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 62/139 declaring World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) be celebrated April 2, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of April is designated as National Autism Awareness Month to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with autism and the family members, educators and other professionals who teach and care for individuals with autism, and

**WHEREAS**, in November, 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Health Statistics Report concluded the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder has risen to one in every 45 children in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) represents a broad group of disorders that vary widely from mild to severe, and is characterized by difficulty with social interaction, communication, severely limited interest and repetitive behaviors; and

**WHEREAS**, autism knows no racial, ethnic, family, income, lifestyle, social boundaries, or educational levels. It can affect any family and any child; and

**WHEREAS**, Xavier DeGroat has dedicated his life to educating and promoting community support for those with autism through the creation of the Xavier DeGroat Autism Foundation; and

**WHEREAS**, communities have a role, in identifying, assessing, or supporting individuals with ASD and their families.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 2, 2020 as World Autism Awareness Day and April 2020 as Autism Awareness Month encourages the residents of Eaton County to become educated and informed of programs, services, and opportunities to support individuals with autism. Carried.