

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

P5

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By: **Delegates Carr, Braveboy, Cardin, Cullison, Eckardt, Fraser–Hidalgo, Frick, Frush, Gaines, Gutierrez, Haddaway–Riccio, Hubbard, A. Kelly, Love, Luedtke, A. Miller, Nathan–Pulliam, Pena–Melnyk, Reznik, Rosenberg, and Waldstreicher**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 7, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day**

3 FOR the purpose of commemorating April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day by
4 specifying that the lights on the State House shall be colored blue to participate
5 in the “Light It Up Blue” initiative; and generally relating to the
6 commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day.

7 WHEREAS, The United Nations has declared April 2 as World Autism
8 Awareness Day; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and appropriate research and interventions are
18 vital to the growth and development of the individual; and

19 WHEREAS, Autism Speaks is the world’s leading autism science and advocacy
20 organization and each April 2 Autism Speaks celebrates “Light It Up Blue” to raise
21 awareness of the growing public health concern that is autism; and



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1 WHEREAS, “Light It Up Blue” is a unique global initiative that kicks off
2 Autism Awareness Month and helps raise awareness about autism and many iconic
3 landmarks, hotels, sporting venues, concert halls, museums, bridges, and retail stores
4 are among the hundreds or thousands of homes and communities that take part to
5 “Light It Up Blue”; and

6 WHEREAS, The Maryland Department of General Services completed a project
7 to upgrade the lighting in the dome of the State House in 2013 as part of the Dome
8 Restoration Project at a cost of \$49,792; and

9 WHEREAS, The new LED lights use a quarter of the electricity of the old
10 mercury vapor lights saving \$4,467.60 per year in energy and maintenance costs and
11 the effort to change the color of the lights on the dome through the push of a button is
12 now negligible as opposed to the old procedure which required maintenance staff to
13 place colored panels over the lights; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That to
15 commemorate World Autism Awareness Day, the lights on the State House shall be
16 colored blue to participate in the “Light It Up Blue” initiative; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
18 Legislative Services to the Honorable Martin O’Malley, Governor of Maryland; the
19 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
20 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.