

**HJR137 ENROLLED**



1 HJR137  
2 BY17N4Q-2  
3 By Representative Clarke  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 17-Feb-26



## HJR137 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2

3 RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF PROFOUND AUTISM  
4 DAY.

5

6 WHEREAS, the definition of autism has evolved over  
7 time, resulting in an increasingly heterogeneous spectrum of  
8 abilities, needs, and life experiences; and

9 WHEREAS, while the entire autism spectrum deserves  
10 recognition, understanding, and support, the term profound  
11 autism is intended to provide clarity regarding individuals  
12 who require 24-hour care from an adult caregiver throughout  
13 their lives; and

14 WHEREAS, individuals with profound autism may also  
15 have a severe intellectual disability and may have minimal  
16 or no functional language, creating distinct and complex  
17 support needs; and

18 WHEREAS, due to these unique challenges, individuals  
19 with profound autism are frequently excluded from research  
20 initiatives, services, and support programs that are not  
21 adequately designed to meet their level of need; and

22 WHEREAS, in April 2023, the Centers for Disease  
23 Control and Prevention released its first prevalence study  
24 on profound autism, concluding that 26.7 percent of children  
25 eight years of age with autism in the United States meet the  
26 criteria for profound autism, meaning that approximately one  
27 in four children with autism are profoundly affected; and

28 WHEREAS, the study further found that, compared to



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29 children with non-profound autism, children with profound  
30 autism were more likely to be female; to come from racial  
31 and ethnic minority groups; to experience low socioeconomic  
32 status; to be born prematurely or with low birth weight; to  
33 exhibit self-injurious behaviors; to have seizure disorders;  
34 and to have significantly lower adaptive functioning scores;  
35 and

36 WHEREAS, individuals with profound autism and the  
37 families and caregivers who support them live in our  
38 communities, often in isolation, and require meaningful  
39 inclusion, understanding, and sustained support; and

40 WHEREAS, specific recognition of the unique  
41 challenges faced by individuals with profound autism is  
42 critical to ensuring equitable access to care, research,  
43 education, and community-based services; now therefore,

44 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
45 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Profound Autism Alliance  
46 is honored and commended on the observance of Profound  
47 Autism Day on March 17, 2026, and this resolution is offered  
48 in highest tribute to those whose dedicated efforts promote  
49 dignity, inclusion, and meaningful support for individuals  
50 living with profound autism.

