

HJR137 INTRODUCED



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



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HJR___ RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF PROFOUND
AUTISM DAY.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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