



## **RESOLUTION 34-21**

*Sponsored by Legislator Pratt:*

### **A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 2021 AS AUTISM ACTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the prevalence of autism in the United States has risen from 1 in 150 children in the year 2000, to 1 in 54 children in 2020, highlighting the urgent need for action; and

**WHEREAS**, people of all abilities deserve to fully participate in their communities and live fulfilling lives of dignity and respect, including those who are living with the most significant disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, April has widely been known as “Autism Awareness Month” in the United States in an effort to educate the public, foster understanding and inclusivity, and shine a light on the systemic barriers people with autism face in their daily lives; and

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate differences and promote the acceptance of people with autism, emphasizing that individuals with autism and their families deserve the opportunity to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, it is crucial that our work doesn’t stop at awareness and acceptance— we recognize the need to advance policies that better provide services and supports for early intervention, education, transition to adulthood, employment, and community living; and

**WHEREAS**, the Schenectady County Legislature honors those with autism and their families and recognizes the need to be aware of, accept, and appreciate the incredible diversity within the autism spectrum, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Schenectady County Legislature proclaims April 2021 as Autism Action Month to help spread further awareness of the realities of autism, promote acceptance in our community, and ignite change to ensure that the universal human rights of all autistic people are respected.