

WHEREAS, Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is a result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain; impacting the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communication skills; and

WHEREAS, Autism is one of five disorders coming under the umbrella of Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD), a category of neurological disorders characterized by "severe and pervasive impairment in several areas of development," including social interaction and communications skills; and

WHEREAS, Autism is the most common of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders, affecting an estimated 2 to 6 per 1,000 individuals. This means that as many as 1.5 million Americans today are believed to have some form of autism; and

WHEREAS, Autism is consistent around the globe, but is four times more prevalent in boys than girls. Autism knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries, and family income, lifestyle, and educational levels do not affect the chance of autism's occurrence; and

WHEREAS, The theme of this year's Autism Awareness Month campaign is Awareness is the Key! This national effort to raise awareness will provide an opportunity to applaud the accomplishments of our children and adults with autism, and to educate the public on the challenges we still face;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California does hereby proclaim the month of April as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

PASSED AND ADOPTED this Eighth Day of April, Two Thousand and Three by unanimous vote.