RESOLUTION 08-12020
Meeting of 4/2/08

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 1291; SUPPORTING INCREASED AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER; URGING COLLIER COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES IN COLLIER COUNTY TO JOIN IN THIS SUPPORT; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT HOUSE BILL 1291; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNOR, THE COLLIER LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, AS WELL AS ALL MUNICIPALITIES LOCATED WITHIN COLLIER COUNTY AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR COLLIER COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2008, Representative Porth and twelve (12) co-sponsors filed House Bill 1291 (hereinafter referred to as "HB1291"), in an effort to raise awareness and provide for better treatment and healthcare for individuals with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder generally includes autistic disorder, Asperger's syndrome, and pervasive developmental disorders not otherwise specified; and

WHEREAS, studies show that between one and five out of every thousand babies will have some variation of autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, the number of diagnosed cases of autism spectrum disorder have been steadily increasing since the late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, with the increased number of diagnosed incidents of autism spectrum disorder, there is a greater need for healthcare coverage, as well as education and treatment, particularly among healthcare providers and in early childhood academic environments; and

WHEREAS, HB 1291 will provide for health insurance coverage for additional screening for autism spectrum disorder and requires the Commissioner on Education to develop recommendations to raise the levels of autism awareness; and

WHEREAS, HB 1291 will expressly require institutions of higher education offering coursework for educator certification to include autism spectrum disorder awareness as part of the curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it to be in the best interests of the citizens and residents of the City to support HB 1291, and further urges the Florida Legislature to adopt the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPLES, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.
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Section 2. The City Council of the City of Naples, Florida hereby supports HB1291 and urges all municipalities in Collier County to join in this support. The City Council hereby further urges the Florida Legislature to adopt HB1291.

Section 3. The City Clerk is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Florida, the Collier County Legislative Delegation and other members of the Florida Legislature, and all municipalities in Collier County, and the Board of County Commissioners for Collier County.

Section 4. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. If any clause, section, other part or application of this Resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Resolution.

Section 6. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.


Bill Barnett, Mayor

Attest:
Tara A. Norma, City Clerk

Approved as to form and legality:
Robert D. Pritt, City Attorney

Date filed with City Clerk: 5/15/08