

Resolution to Recognize the Autism Community as an Important Democratic Agenda

WHEREAS 1 in 68 individuals in the US are known to have autism, though there could be many more that don't realize and/or don't like to admit they have autism; [1,2]

WHEREAS Autism often leads to uneven differences and communication abilities (e.g. they avoid eye contact without the intention of being rude or disrespectful, or they communicate through movie quotes or songs they love), and though autistic individuals have feelings, they may sometimes struggle to show them; [2]

WHEREAS many harmful myths have been spread about treating or curing autism such as avoiding vaccines, raw camel milk consumption, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, et cetera; [1,3,4]

WHEREAS autistic individuals are more likely to be abused, bullied and wrongfully accused of certain actions; and [5,6]

WHEREAS many organizations & therapies (such as Applied Behavior Analysis, ABA) brand themselves as autism-accepting, but focus instead on hiding Autistic people's neurodivergence, and have historically used harmful techniques such as self-electroshock devices now banned by the FDA. [7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14] Now, therefore, be it—

RESOLVED that the Alexandria Democrats—

1. Recognize, and call upon elected officials to recognize, Autistic individuals' right to expression and self-determination, and that any therapies for Autistic people should be backed by science, and focus on their well-being and self-sufficiency instead of hiding their neurodivergence;
2. Call on Virginia officials to introduce additional legislation to not only end discrimination towards the autism community but to provide them the proper accommodations they would need whether it's in housing, healthcare, schools, the workforce, or wherever they may go. [15,16,17]

References:

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