

[Commending AASCEND]

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Resolution commending Autism/Asperger's Syndrome Coalition for Education Networking and Development (AASCEND) on the great occasion of their second annual conference, "Share The Journey" on February 10, 2001 in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, Autism/Asperger's Syndrome Coalition for Education Networking and Development (AASCEND) was founded to bring together autistic adults, their families and friends as well as academics and professionals in the autism field to learn more about each other, provide support network and share information; and,

WHEREAS, Persons suffering from Adults with Asperger's Syndrome (AS) and High Functioning Autism (HFA) have not only been misunderstood by the general public, but often blamed for their differences; and,

WHEREAS, People living with AS and/or HFS have often been misdiagnosed by health professionals and it wasn't until 1994 that AS became widely used in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Diagnosis (DSM IV); and,

WHEREAS, Yet even for those adults living with AS and HFS who can work and live independently, autism's core challenges affecting social interaction, the sensory system and language processing can be a daunting task and present profound challenge; and,

WHEREAS, For the past two years, the diverse and intergenerational members of AASCEND have been convening monthly to share informational resources, support one another emotionally, and learn to appreciate the diversity of viewpoints and life experiences; and,

Supervisors Annunzio

1 WHEREAS, AASCEND utilizes a unique approach which attempts to
2 move beyond social roles as patients, parents, cases, students, clinicians,
3 academics or children in order to more effectively collaborate together as peers
4 to address the multi-faceted challenges posed by AS and HFS; and,

5 WHEREAS, In addition to regular monthly meetings, AASCEND is also
6 raising public awareness through creating a website and convening educational
7 conferences not only to reach affected adults and their loved ones, but also to
8 educate the greater community; and,

9 WHEREAS, Since many professionals, from school teachers to health
10 professionals, were trained in an era that did not include information about AS
11 and HFS, AASCEND also targets professionals to both raise awareness and
12 provide the latest academic findings and medical research; and,

13 WHEREAS, AASCEND also assists individual members to address
14 employment, housing and social needs as well as conduct research to further
15 enhance the autonomy of adults living with AS and HFA; and,

16 WHEREAS, AASCEND advocates for and explores new ways of
17 designing and supporting independent adult living as well as networking with
18 other local and national AS and HFS groups such as the San Francisco
19 Asperger's Teen Club and the Bay Area Autistics to build community and support
20 nationally; be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
22 Francisco hereby commends Autism/Asperger's Syndrome Coalition for
23 Education Networking and Development (AASCEND) on the great occasion of
24 their second annual conference, "Share The Journey" on February 10, 2001 in
25 the City and County of San Francisco.

SUPERVISOR AMMIANO



City and County of San Francisco

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1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 010186

Date Passed:

Resolution commending Autism/Asperger's Syndrome Coalition for Education Networking and Development (AASCEND) on the great occasion of their second annual conference, "Share the Journey" on February 10, 2001 in the City and County of San Francisco.

February 5, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Leno, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

File No. 010186

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on February 5, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

FEB 16 2001

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.