

**House Health, Insurance, and Environment Committee
HB18-1223, Declare Autism Epidemic in Colorado
April 26, 2018**

My name is Darcy Reed. I use an iPad and a tech assistant to communicate. To save time, I typed this testimony earlier.

I am proud of who I am, but my life would be easier if I were not limited by severe autism. I don't appreciate lack of effort here. I want science to study autism, not just accept it. If we go on normalizing and glamorizing autism, we will never know what causes it or what might cure it.

We will never research autism if we deny the increase in numbers. We will never study autism if we deny the suffering that often happens. How can people not be curious? Why do they fight so hard against research and funding? It is so suspicious and superstitious to me.

Some of my respected friends in the autism community believe studying autism is somehow stigmatizing, as if this bill would make their lives worse. I say not honestly studying autism stigmatizes and marginalizes me.

Not supporting this bill is a slap in the face for those autistics and their families who suffer. I don't have to think of myself as an epidemic to support this bill. Please agree.

Thank you.

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