



May 20, 2014

Mr. Angelos Koutoumanos NOESI.gr

Dear Mr. Koutoumanos.

Thank you for joining us on April 2nd, World Autism Awareness Day and Lighting It Up Blue! More than ten thousand monuments, landmarks, buildings, places of worship, schools and homes in more than 125 countries on all seven continents signed on to raise unprecedented global awareness for autism because of your leadership and support.

Autism is now the most pressing childhood disorder of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A recent US government study found 1 in 68 children has an autism spectrum disorder, and an Autism Speaks-funded study in South Korea found 1 in 38 children were affected. Both studies add to the growing evidence that we are likely underestimating the true frequency of autism in America and around the world.

As we watch the prevalence numbers rise, our mission to improve the lives and futures for all people on the spectrum is growing ever more urgent. We are proud of the diplomatic achievements that have been made this past year, including the universal passage of a new autism resolution by the World Health Assembly. This Resolution builds on the momentum generated by the UN Resolution on WAAD and the second UNGA Resolution on Autism adopted in 2012.

While we have made great progress, we have much work to do. We must press every community of every country to recognize the needs of families affected by autism, and provide immediate and lasting solutions. Together, we can ensure a healthy, bright, productive future for all of our loved ones with autism.

Thank you, once again, for joining us on this journey. We look forward to continuing our work with you!

Warmest Regards,

Suzanne and Bob Wright

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