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Steinberg Statement on Governor's Approval of Autism Insurance Coverage

(Sacramento) – Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg issued the following statement on the Governor signing SB 946, which requires insurance companies to provide coverage of behavior therapy for autism spectrum disorder as a medical benefit:

“This is a critical victory for thousands of California children and families. For many of them, having this therapy covered by their insurance is the difference between despair and hope.

“The science clearly shows that treating the mind through behavioral therapy is no different than treating a broken arm or a heart condition. I commend the Governor for acknowledging that every child in this state matters, by signing a measure that will literally benefit thousands of kids for generations to come. I would also like to applaud the countless families and advocates who have been working tirelessly on this issue for many years. And as our state's fiscal health improves, I will keep working to ensure that when it comes to autism treatment, every child, every young adult, and every family in California has affordable access to this therapy.”

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