



April 30, 2009

The Honorable Joe Sestak
United States House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Walter B. Jones
United States House of Representatives
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ciro Rodriguez
United States House of Representatives
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sestak, Congressman Jones, and Congressman Rodriguez:

On behalf of Autism Speaks, I am writing to thank you for your initiative in introducing H.R. 1600, legislation to provide coverage of medically necessary therapeutic services for military dependents that have children with autism.

For many children with autism, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy is the treatment of choice. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy is recognized as an effective, evidence-based treatment for children with autism. Current law limits this intervention to dependents of active duty service members and places a financial cap on a child's treatment program which serves to diminish treatment effectiveness. H.R. 1600 will make ABA and other essential, medically necessary treatments available, regardless of duty status, and provide patients access to an effective level of services.

Whether retired or on active duty, military members who have served our nation with honor and integrity deserve quality health care for their children. We greatly appreciate your initiative in helping military families face the challenges associated with autism and applaud you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Emken
Vice President – Government Relations
Autism Speaks