



Senate File 1

Sponsored by Senator Daryl Beall (D-25)

House File 1

Sponsored by Representative Ray S. Zirkelbach (D-31)

FACTS ABOUT AUTISM

- According to the CDC, autism now affects **1 in 110 children and 1 in 70 boys**. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined
- Autism costs the nation over \$35 billion per year, a figure expected to significantly increase in the next decade.
- **Coverage for evidence-based treatments, endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Surgeon General are routinely denied by health insurers.**
- Fifteen states have passed similar legislation requiring health insurers to cover autism treatment and more than twenty are currently pursuing passage.

HF 1 and SF 1 PROVIDE A REASONABLE SOLUTION TO IOWANS:

- Require private health insurance companies to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder for individuals under the age of 21 of up to \$36,000 annually when prescribed, provided, or ordered for an individual diagnosed with autism by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, a licensed social worker, or a licensed registered nurse practitioner who determines the care to be medically necessary
- The bill includes coverage of the following treatments: Diagnosis, Habilitative or rehabilitative care, Pharmacy care, Psychiatric care, Psychological care, Therapeutic care, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Small businesses (employers with 50 or fewer employees) may "opt out" of providing this coverage

HF 1 and SF 1 MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE FOR THE STATE OF IOWA

- Premiums would increase about **0.39%** which equals about **\$1 per member per month**. *(per January 2010 Actuarial Cost Estimate prepared by Oliver Wyman.)*
- The **costs of ABA treatments covered under HF 1 and SF 1 could be expected to be recovered through reductions in educational and medical expenditures, alone**. *(per January 2010 Actuarial Cost Estimate prepared by Oliver Wyman.)*
- Other costs of care would also be reduced and the productivity of individuals with ASD and their caregivers would improve, in addition to non-economic or quality of life benefits. *(per January 2010 Actuarial Cost Estimate prepared by Oliver Wyman.)*

For additional information, please visit <http://autismvotes.org/iowa> or contact Judith Ursitti at judith.ursitti@autismspeaks.org or Josh Cobbs, at iowaCAC@autismspeaks.org.