



## Legislating Health Coverage of Autism in 2009 House Bill 357/298

### Key Points in Favor of Legislating Health Coverage for Autism

- 1 in 150 children are currently diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Health insurance coverage for autism will insure that services desperately needed by people with autism are covered
- Health insurance coverage will decrease the lifetime costs of treating and providing services for people with autism and will result in an overall cost savings
- The financial support for autism care should be a three-legged stool. Currently the State of Missouri and families are doing their part; private health insurers need to join with families and the State of Missouri.
- The insurance industry in Health Insurance Mandates in the States reports that in states where coverage for autism treatments has been implemented, there has been a minimal increase in premiums, as little as LESS THAN 1%. ***The potential impact on Missouri premiums will be less than \$23 a year.***

### Key Features of House Bills 357/298

- Group health insurance policies must cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders in individuals less than 21 years of age.
- The treatment of autism spectrum disorders, which must be ordered and monitored by a licensed physician or psychologist, will include
  - a) psychiatric care;
  - b) psychological care;
  - c) habilitative or rehabilitative care, including applied behavior analysis therapy;
  - d) therapeutic care;
  - e) pharmacy care;
- Health insurance providers may not deny coverage because of a diagnosis of autism

### Get Involved

- Please sign up to receive action alerts to contact your legislator on this specific initiative and stay informed about this bill at [www.autismvotes.org/missouri](http://www.autismvotes.org/missouri)
- You can learn more about the progress of Missouri-specific autism legislation at [www.missouriautism.org](http://www.missouriautism.org)