



# Support House Bill 1091

## Health Insurance Coverage of Autism Spectrum Disorder

*Sponsored by Delegate Kirill Reznik*

### **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.

### **HB 1091 PROVIDES REASONABLE SOLUTIONS FOR MARYLAND**

- Requires health insurance companies subject to Maryland law to provide coverage of the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder. when prescribed, provided or ordered for an individual diagnosed with autism by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist who determines the care to be medically necessary
- Health insurance companies would be required to provide coverage of:
  - Diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder - meaning medically necessary assessments, evaluations, or tests to diagnose whether an individual has an autism spectrum disorder
  - Habilitative or rehabilitative care - meaning professional counseling, guidance, services, and treatment programs and devices, including applied behavior analysis (ABA) and other behavioral health treatments.
  - Speech generating devices - meaning speech aids that treat severe speech or language impairments by providing individuals with the ability to meet daily communication needs
  - The bill allows businesses to opt out of providing this coverage if premiums increase more than 2%
  - The bill does not affect any obligation to provide services to an individual under an individualized family service plan, an individualized education program (IEP), or an individualized services plan

*For additional information, please visit <http://autismvotes.org/maryland>  
or contact Judith Ursitti at [judith.ursitti@autismspeaks.org](mailto:judith.ursitti@autismspeaks.org)*