



Support Health Insurance Coverage of  
Autism Spectrum Disorder  
House Bill 783  
*Sponsored by Delegate Kirill Reznik*  
and Senate Bill 759  
*Sponsored by Senator Kathy Klausmeier*

## **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.
- The incremental long term cost of caring for a person with autism is \$3.2 million over their lifetime according to a 2007 study by the Harvard School of Public Health.
- Coverage for evidence-based treatments, endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Surgeon General are routinely denied by health insurers.
- Twenty-three states have passed similar legislation requiring health insurers to cover autism treatment and the vast majority that remain are currently pursuing passage.

## **HB783/SB759 PROVIDE REASONABLE SOLUTIONS FOR MARYLAND**

- Requires state regulated health insurance companies to provide coverage for the diagnosis and evidence-based, medically necessary treatment of an autism spectrum disorder when prescribed by a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, licensed speech-language pathologist or a board certified behavior analyst credentialed by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.
- Experience rates from states that have passed similar legislation indicate minimal premium impact:
  - BCBS of Minnesota reported five year average coverage costs in 2007 at 83¢ per member per month. This included coverage of more than 2,100 individuals with ASD with no age or dollar caps.
  - Actual South Carolina cost for similar coverage in 2009 was 20¢ per member per month in 2009 and 44¢ per member per month in 2010. Enrollment in the SC State Employee Health Plan is 350,000. Ryan's Law covers children with ASD up to age 16 and includes a dollar cap on ABA only of \$50,000.

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