



New York S7000

An Act to Amend the Insurance Law and the Public Health Law, in Relation to Coverage for the Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Sponsored by Senator Neil Breslin (District 46) and Senator Thomas Duane (District 29)

Co-sponsors: DUANE, JOHNSON C, FOLEY, FUSCHILLO, HUNTLEY, MORAHAN, MCDONALD, HASSELL-THOMPSON, ADAMS, ADDABBO, BONACIC, DIAZ, DILAN, GRIFFO, KRUEGER, KRUGER, LAVALLE, MARCELLINO, MONTGOMERY, NOZZOLIO, ONORATO, OPPENHEIMER, PADAVAN, PARKER, PERKINS, ROBACH, SALAND, SAMPSON, SCHNEIDERMAN, SERRANO, SQUADRON, STAVISKY, STEWART-COUSINS, THOMPSON, VOLKER

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.

S7000 PROVIDES A REASONABLE SOLUTION TO NEW YORK

- Would require private health insurance companies subject to state law to provide coverage for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder.
- The bill has no age caps or dollar caps on these benefits.
- The bill covers treatments including as speech therapy, occupational therapy and behavioral health treatments (including applied behavior analysis). In addition, the bill provides coverage for physical health problems that frequently occur with autism, such as sleep abnormalities, seizures and gastrointestinal problems.
- The purpose of this bill is require insurance coverage for services provided on a supplemental basis outside of an educational setting for services that are deemed medically necessary and does not affect any obligation to provide services to an individual under an individualized family service plan (IFSP), an individualized education program (IEP), or an individualized services plan (ISP).
- Autism is a treatable condition. It is time for health plans to cover autism treatment in New York.

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