



Rhode Island: 2011 Autism Insurance Reform Bills

*SB 107 Introduced by Senators E O'Neill, Gallo, Metts, Perry, and Paiva Weed
HB 5275 Introduced by Representatives Palumbo, Schadone, Menard, Petrarca, and McCauley*

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 increase significantly over the next decade. **The State of Rhode Island is currently spending millions of dollars through state-funded Medicaid, educational and Early Intervention programs while health plans offer minimal support**
 - Coverage for evidence-based treatments, endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Surgeon General, are routinely denied by health insurers
 - **Similar legislation has been enacted by 26 other states, including every other New England state**
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SB 107A/HB 5275A PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE EFFORT TO REQUIRE HEALTH INSURERS IN RHODE ISLAND TO COVER AUTISM TREATMENT

The legislation would:

- Require state-regulated group health insurance plans to provide coverage for the following treatments for individuals diagnosed with Autism, PDD-NOS or Asperger Syndrome up to the age of 15:
 - Speech therapy
 - Occupational therapy
 - Physical therapy
 - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) capped at \$32,000 annually
- Not alter any obligation of a school district or the State of Rhode Island to provide services to a child under an individualized family service plan or an individualized education plan, as required under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or the provision of services to an individual under any other federal or state law
- Require any individual providing ABA to be credentialed by the insurer and:
 - Licensed by the Department of Health as a healthcare provider/clinician and nationally certified as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), or
 - Nationally certified as a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) supervised by a BCBA who is licensed by the Department of Health as a psychologist, social worker or therapist

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