



Please Support SB 464 and HB 303

Sponsored by Delegate John O'Bannon and Senator Janet Howell

**ASD's CAN OFTEN BE EFFECTIVELY TREATED,
RESULTING IN COST SAVINGS.**

-Virginia JLARC Study 2009

SB 464/HB 303 will help families of the Commonwealth meet the challenge of providing their children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) the early intervention Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and other evidence based therapies proven to mitigate or diminish the impacts of autism.

According to the [Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC) 1 in every 110 children are diagnosed with autism. Autism occurs across all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups, with diagnosis impacting boys 4 to 5 times as often as girls.

The benefit of ABA therapy to meaningfully improve outcomes for children is well documented, and is considered as such in CDC materials and Virginia's own JLARC study on autism.

SB 464/HB 303 will help the Commonwealth. Per the 2009 [JLARC Assessment of Services for Virginians with Autism Spectrum Disorders Final Report](#), **nearly half of the children who receive early intervention treatment may avoid being placed in special education classes** (page 10) which cost thousands of dollars more per student. Additionally, the 2009 JLARC report indicates that ABA services and early intervention could significantly reduce public costs, with savings that would accrue over the lifetime of these children.

SB 464/HB 303:

- provides evidence-based treatment to children diagnosed with autism through age nine.
- Costs less than 1% of current premiums annually, ranging from between \$9.60 to less than \$25 per year according to the January 2010 Cost/Benefit Actuarial Analysis prepared by Oliver Wyman. (Executive summary, page 2)
- Allows nearly 50% of children with an ASD diagnosis and who receive early and intensive ABA services to realize "normal levels of functioning" (per JLARC Study, page 10)
- Allows an additional 40% of diagnosed children to realize moderate gains
- Saves the Commonwealth and localities funding on special education needs based on the efficacy of the ABA services (JLARC Study, page 10)

SB 464/HB 303 has a proven track record:

The **Texas legislature** not only passed a similar bill providing insurance coverage for children with autism, but in May 2009 their legislature expanded those services. **South Carolina** unanimously overrode their Governor's veto of insurance coverage of services for families whose children are diagnosed with autism.

Fifteen other states have passed similar autism insurance reform laws providing coverage to their families impacted by an ASD diagnosis, including AZ, CO, CN, FL, IL, IN, LA, MT, NV, NJ, NM, PA, SC, TX & WI. More than twenty are currently pursuing similar legislation.

*SB 464/HB 303 is beneficial to children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the families impacted by this diagnosis, and **to the fiscal wellbeing of the Commonwealth of Virginia.***

Please co-patron and vote yes for SB 464/HB 303