

STATE OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0024  
(916) 319-2024  
FAX (916) 319-2124

DISTRICT OFFICE  
100 PASEO DE SAN ANTONIO, SUITE 300  
SAN JOSE, CA 95113  
(408) 282-8920  
FAX (408) 282-8927

WEBSITE  
[www.assembly.ca.gov/beall](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/beall)

# Assembly California Legislature



**JIM BEALL, JR.**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR, HUMAN SERVICES  
BUDGET  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE 1 ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND THE ECONOMY  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT  
AND SOCIAL SECURITY  
REVENUE AND TAXATION

**SELECT COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR, ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE  
CHAIR, FOSTER CARE

January 31, 2011

TO: Members of the Assembly  
FROM: Assembly Member Jim Beall, Jr. *J.B.*  
RE: Co-Author Request: Autism Insurance Legislation

I would like to invite you to join me in co-authoring **AB 171**, legislation that will require private health insurers to pay for critical services and programs, including screening, diagnosis and treatment, for children and adults with autism spectrum and related disorders (ASD).

While there is widespread consensus in the medical community about the standard of care treatments for ASD, individuals with ASD are routinely denied these essential medically necessary treatments. In order to secure necessary treatment many families are forced to pay privately. Others are frequently required to spend significant time and resources individually appealing health plan and insurer denials, an option that the vast majority of individuals and families do not have the time or resources to pursue. Most go without treatment.

Aside from the individually tragic result of going without treatment, the financial burden on the state of the health plans' refusal to cover essential health care treatment is tremendous. The health plan denials shift their financial responsibility of millions of dollars to the taxpayers, who are currently paying the cost of health care services for many insured Californians with ASD through the Regional Centers, counties and school districts. Taxpayers also bear the long term social, educational and social service costs of not treating individuals with ASD when their prognosis can be changed.

Sponsored by the Alliance of California Autism Organizations, comprised of over 40 California parent founded and supported local, state, and nationally based autism advocacy and support organizations and their local chapters, AB 171 would end health care discrimination against individuals with ASD, and would save the state millions of taxpayer dollars both in the immediate and long term.

If you or your staff have questions, please contact me or Eric Gelber, Chief Consultant of the Assembly Human Services Committee, at 319-2089.

Yes, I would like to co-author AB 171.

Print Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Eric Gelber, 1020 N Street Room 124, or fax to (916) 319-2189