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The heartbreak of autism, and the costs of treatment

New York has now joined 28 other states to end years of insurance-industry discrimination against families raising children with autism.

Insurers, who collect thousands of dollars in premiums from these families, will finally have to begin covering proven autism behavioral therapies for their children. But Gov. Cuomo did much more than that when he signed autism-insurance reform into law.

He brought tax relief to New Yorkers -- an estimated \$13 million in special education, Medicaid and social-service costs as more individuals with autism can be mainstreamed into society through behavioral therapy.

New York also will follow the lead of the growing list of major employers that have chosen voluntarily to include autism benefits in their self-funded health plans.

Mark Roithmayr
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