



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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*Advisory Board*

Contact: Dr. Colleen Allen, PhD  
313-874-6307

## **Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM) Joint Advisory Board in Support of Insurance Reform for Evidence-Based Autism Treatment**

On behalf of the Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM) Advisory Board, we are jointly submitting this letter of support for Senate Bills 414 and 415. Passage of these bills would reform insurance coverage for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in Michigan to cover evidence-based practice (EBP) diagnosis and treatment of this developmental disability. We applaud Governor Snyder, Lt. Governor Calley and Senator Randy Richardville for their public support of this legislation.

As a collective group, we see hundreds of patients and clients per year afflicted with ASD. It is abundantly clear through our utilization of EBP behavioral-based intervention the significance of this legislation and what it potentially means to individuals with ASD. Upon early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, children often make remarkable progress in overcoming the symptoms of their disability. They frequently integrate to mainstream educational settings with minimal supports. Intense intervention is eventually decreased with the goal of ending targeted treatment and the individual having the skills to function primarily independently.

The earlier families can implement this vital intervention the more likely the child will have improved academic and societal outcomes. When children can be more successful through their educational progression because of having this foundational training, it is more likely they will complete high school and potentially post-secondary training. There is also greater probability for gainful employment and being a contributing member of society. Without this training there is a substantial likelihood children with ASD will struggle immensely, become frustrated, fall behind academically, exhibit significant behavior issues, and have greater societal challenges—ultimately becoming a vast financial burden to the system.

Covering individuals with autism spectrum disorders with research-based and proven treatments is absolutely looking at the longer-term perspective for an improved quality of life, and being fiscally responsible over the trajectory of the individual's lifespan. We urge you to contact your legislators and support this very important piece of legislation.

***Dr. Colleen Allen, PhD***  
Executive Director  
Autism Alliance of Michigan

***Ruth Anan, PhD***  
***Lori Warner, PhD***  
Beaumont Hospital

***Jan Graetz, PhD***  
***Kathy Sweeney***  
OUCARES

***Ann Patronik***  
Judson Center

***Tisa Johnson, MD***  
***Colleen Allen, PhD***  
Henry Ford Health Systems

***Stacie Rulison, MA***  
***Mary Sharp, MD***  
Mid-Michigan Autism  
Association

***Mandy Chilton, PT***  
***Eileen Donovan, MD***  
Detroit Institute for  
Children

***Stephanie Peterson, PhD***  
***Shawn Quigley, BCBA***  
Western Michigan University

***Tammy Morris, MA SLP***  
***Susan Youngs, MD***  
Oakwood Healthcare

***Pam Lemerand, PhD***  
Autism Collaborative

***James Todd, PhD***  
Eastern Michigan University

***Michael Hixson, PhD***  
Central Michigan University

***Dave Pankotai, MA LPC***  
ConsumerLink

***Amy Mathews, PhD***  
Grand Valley State University

***Brooke Ingersoll, PhD***  
***Summer Ferreri, PhD***  
Michigan State University