

Amy Simonelli [REDACTED]

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This issue is important to me because my son deserves access to services that will allow him to live a full and productive life. Over the last several years my family has been paying \$1000 a month out of pocket for occupational therapy, social groups and speech therapy that has benefited my child tremendously. There is no way we would deny our child the opportunity to thrive, so we incurred these costs even throughout my husband's two year unemployment, despite the fact that my health insurance provided no coverage. Needless to say, we now have a lot of debt.

It makes me incredibly sad to think of the kids whose lives could be hugely improved if their families had access to insurance coverage for Autism, but who are not getting the treatment because their families simply can't afford it. These kids and families will eventually become an expensive burden on our system. **How is that acceptable, when successful and proven treatments exist?** Please give my family, my friend's families and so many others the chance they so deserve.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amy Simonelli
[REDACTED]