

July 29, 2019

ACTION ALERT #3

ACTION: CALL members of the U.S. Senate HELP Committee.

MESSAGE: *Please pass the House version of the Autism CARES Act reauthorization bill without changes.*

BACKGROUND: The U.S. House of Representatives amended the Autism CARES Act in the spirit and intent of APCR proposed amendments. We are happy with the changes. But the new bill must still pass the Senate!

Representative Michael F. Doyle, Jr. (D-PA) submitted an [Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 1058](#) to the House E&C Committee on July 17, 2019. The Committee approved the amendment which then passed the House of Representatives on July 26, 2019.

The Doyle amendment adds critical pieces missing from the 2014 Autism CARES Act. The amendment says "*Such research shall investigate the causes (including possible environmental causes), diagnosis or ruling out, early and ongoing detection, prevention, services across the lifespan, supports, intervention, and treatment of autism spectrum disorder, including dissemination and implementation of clinical care, supports, interventions, and treatments.*"

This will be a big win for the families. Thanks to great people who called Congressional Representatives during the past few weeks, the thirty-six legacy advocacy groups that do not represent individual and family interests would have had their way favoring an expedited reauthorization without improvements.

APRC has lobbied extensively for six years to add in specific references to environmental causes and the dissemination and implementation of clinical care, supports, interventions and treatments. The Doyle amendment combines the spirit and intent of the two APCR policy requests into one amendment.

The Doyle amendment places a mandate on NIH rather than HRSA to develop and disseminate standards of treatment and prevention to the medical community. This is better than we asked. Formulating standards without causation based treatment research would perpetuate the myopic archetype of early psychiatric treatment as the prevailing standard of care.

Furthermore, APCR recommended a mandate that NIH follow the IACC strategic plan primarily because NIH has largely ignored the plan to investigate environmental causation. The Doyle amendment is even better because that mandate will be stronger having emanated from statutory law.

This bill must still pass the Senate before the President signs it into law. Please make the call!

Expires August 2, 2019