

*** Action Alert ****

We need your financial support!

The Autism Policy Reform Coalition (APRC) has come a long way this year. We need your continued support in sustaining impact by encouraging government officials to do the right things for people with autism, their families, and the community!

The APRC is a group of national autism advocacy organizations representing families united to achieve meaningful federal policy that will make substantive differences in the lives of those facing autism.

We garnered the attention of the federal government with a powerful message from thousands of you who contacted Senators and representatives as the Autism CARES Act worked its way through Congress. Key legislators and Federal agency representatives support your consensus positions as thoughtful and proportionate to the gravity of this epidemic.

American taxpayers lost \$1.6 billion on the Federal response to autism with no apparent success over the past eight years. The prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is increasing at an alarming rate with more than 1.5 million people now affected. Federal policy must address the needs of this community with a sense of urgency around issues such as wandering, abuse, suicide, aging into adulthood, and appropriate health care standards.

All causal factors must be explored including environmental exposures. Almost all federal spending to investigate the cause of the epidemic is narrowly focused on genetic causation, the results of which will not prevent a single case or benefit any child. Common sense should indicate that genetics cannot be the sole cause of this epidemic after prevalence has increased at such precipitous rates.

Better prevalence tracking by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is essential for causation analysis, strategic planning and clinical support. Currently, the CDC changes tracking sites every two years preventing analysis of geographic distribution and bi-annual trends.

We will engage the Administration on the new provisions of the Autism CARES Act to forge responsive autism policy. We will actively collaborate on government and private sector solutions. We will follow up with representatives on Capitol Hill regarding the appropriateness of the Autism CARES Act. We will drive policy that delivers tangible results for American families facing autism. We will work hard for you.

We ask your financial help to sustain the momentum. Please visit www.autismnpolicy.org to give your generous donation. Please share this message.