

July 8, 2019

# URGENT CALL TO **ACTION**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Here is an opportunity to have a say in Federal autism policy. We have reached a critical point in having important amendments considered for the 2019 Autism CARES Act.

**Congressional autism caucus leaders need to hear from you right now about how to improve our government's response to autism, and fill critical pieces missing from the Autism CARES Act!**

[APRC Talking Points on Autism CARES Act Reauthorization \(2019\)](#)

The proposed amendment drafts include:

[Amendment Requiring NIH to Adopt and Implement the IACC Strategic Plan](#)

[Amendment to Establish Standards of Care for Autistic People](#)

**ACTION:** Please call ALL of the autism caucus leaders (listed below) with this message:

Please reauthorize the 2014 Autism CARES Act including the proposed APRC amendments. The current language does not work for us as well as it could.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding ignores the strategic plan formulated by the Inter Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC). Authors of the original Autism CARES Act language created IACC to unify families, scientists, and governmental agencies. (*Read the Santorum Dodd letter [HERE](#)*). The deliberate purpose of IACC was to formulate effective and evolving strategy for NIH to follow. IACC serves no useful purpose when the NIH fails to fund the strategic plan!

Furthermore, many families report terrible health care for non-verbal children. There are accounts of children being sent home from emergency rooms and doctors' offices inappropriately with severe illness. Hurried providers might hastily dismiss a physically ill screaming child with psychiatric explanations. Please include the amendment to establish health care standards for autistic people across the lifespan.

**FINAL NOTE:** Assuming Congress wants to serve us, we must first demonstrate unity and consensus. We appreciate the appropriate frustration in this community. But please be civil with the people we are asking for help. Do not hesitate to call them. **FULL SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS can be found [HERE](#).**

## **AUTISM CAUCUS LEADERS:**

U.S. Senator Michael B. Enzi (R-WY) **PHONE:** 202-224-3424

U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) **PHONE:** 202-224-4744

U.S. Representative Michael F. Doyle Jr. (D-PA) **PHONE:** 202-225-2135

U.S. Representative Chris H. Smith (R-NJ) **PHONE:** 202-225-3765

**Expires July 12, 2019**