August 28, 2019

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
317 Russell Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
322 Hart Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Steve Scalise
Minority Whip
1705 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. John Thune
Majority Whip
SD-511
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Richard J. Durbin
Minority Whip
711 Hart Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Frank Pallone
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Greg Walden
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip
H-329. The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders,

We, a bipartisan group of attorneys general, ardently request that you reauthorize the Autism CARES Act since the current law’s sunsets on

1 42 U.S.C.A. § 284g

According to the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, one out of every fifty-nine children in America is diagnosed with ASD. Yet, ASD within minority communities tends to be diagnosed less often and much later. Reauthorizing the Autism CARES Act will specifically incentivize ASD programs and research in America’s rural and underdeveloped communities.

Nearly half of 25-year old individuals with ASD have never held employment\(^2\); as a result, the CARES Act of 2019 prioritizes community-based solutions to better incorporate adults with ASD into society. Research indicates that job activities encourage independence that relieves autism-related symptoms while reinforcing daily life skills.\(^3\) In addition, this may help alleviate some of the strain on parents of individuals with ASD. On average, mothers of children with ASD are only able to maintain about half as many work hours as mothers without children with ASD.\(^4\)

ASD impacts hundreds of thousands of Americans. Congress began addressing autism in 2000 with the first enactment of the bill. The 161 cosponsors of the current House and Senate bills and the 118+ bipartisan members of the Congressional Coalition for Autism Research and Education demonstrate its significance. The Autism CARES Act of 2019 will continue Congress’ ongoing mission to ensure that those living with ASD receive the necessary support and research. Therefore, we, the undersigned attorneys general, ask you to support and to enact the Autism Cares Act of 2019 before September 30, 2019.

Sincerely Yours,

Curtis T. Hill, Jr.
Indiana Attorney General

Jim Hood
Mississippi Attorney General

Kevin G. Clarkson
Alaska Attorney General

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