



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kevin S. Parker

## State Senator Kevin Parker Proposes Comprehensive Autism Legislation Package in Honor of Autism Awareness Month

JAUKIA MCCONEYHEAD April 8, 2024

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**Brooklyn, N.Y.** State Senator Kevin Parker unveils a comprehensive and pioneering legislative package aimed at revolutionizing New York State's approach to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). With a steadfast commitment to advocating for individuals and families affected by ASD, Senator Parker's proposed legislation seeks to address critical gaps in

healthcare coverage, enhance diagnostic and support services, as well as promote greater understanding and acceptance.

Senator Parker's legislative suite consists of the following seven pivotal bills designed to address various aspects of Autism care and support:

**Senate Bill S.5762:** Requires health insurers to provide comprehensive coverage for the prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Senate Bill S.8944:** Refines the definition of Autism to ensure clarity and accuracy in diagnosis and treatment.

**Senate Bill S.4741:** Mandates pediatric care providers to screen for Autism, facilitating early intervention and support services.

**Senate Bill S.6376:** Establishes the New York Autism Spectrum Disorders Treatment, Training, and Research Council to coordinate efforts and allocate resources effectively.

**Senate Bill S.7908:** Establishes a registry to aid in locating individuals with Autism, Alzheimer's, and dementia in the event of emergencies.

**Senate Bill S.7896:** Establishes a program of tiered eligibility for services offered by OPWDD for persons with learning disabilities and other complex neurological impairments.

**Senate Bill S.7911:** Creates the New York State Autism Council.

The importance of this legislative package cannot be overstated “These bills are not just pieces of legislation; they are lifelines for countless New Yorkers on the Autism Spectrum and their families. Together, we have the power to light up the spectrum of possibilities, transforming challenges into victories and despair into hope. Let's make New York a beacon

of understanding, support, and empowerment” states Senator Parker.

The passage of these bills will mark a significant step forward in improving the lives of those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder, making New York a model of compassion, innovation, and excellence in ASD care and support. Together, we can create a future where every individual on the autism spectrum is valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

### **About State Senator Kevin Parker**

Senator Kevin S. Parker is intimately familiar with the needs of his ethnically diverse Brooklyn district comprising sections of Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, Ditmas Park, Midwood, Flatlands, Canarsie, Georgetown, Old Mill Basin, Mill Basin, Marine Park, and Bergen Beach. A lifelong Brooklyn resident, he is the Chairman of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee and sits on the Senate Finance; Rules; Banks; Internet and Technology; Rules; and Budget and Revenue.

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