



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Charles J. Fuschillo Jr.

Senator Fuschillo Calls on Governor Paterson to Sign Autism Insurance Reform Bill

CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO JR. October 12, 2010

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Governor David Paterson
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

I am writing to you to respectfully request that you sign S.7000b/A.10372a into law. The legislation is currently before you for consideration.

S.7000b/A.10372, which was unanimously approved by both houses of the legislature, is landmark legislation that will change the lives of thousands of families that have loved ones with autism. These families are currently mortgaging their futures, paying tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket every year to ensure that their loved ones receive the necessary care and treatment they need because their insurance companies won't cover the costs.

The prevalence of this disorder is increasing at alarming rates. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1 in 110 children are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Studies have shown that autism rates among children in New York are increasing by approximately 15% per year. Along with families, taxpayers have carried the burden of these costs through Medicaid and increased demand for high cost special education. The Autism Society of America estimates that this essential care can range between \$3.5 million and \$5 million over a lifetime.

The legislation before you will responsibly ease the burden on the increasing number of families that cannot afford to pay for these enormous out-of-pocket treatment and therapy costs. Ending insurance discrimination and requiring insurance companies to cover medically necessary and evidence-based

Above is a letter Senator Fuschillo sent to Governor David Paterson urging him to sign autism insurance reform legislation which is currently before him for consideration. The legislation (S7000B), which Senator Fuschillo sponsored, would ensure that individuals with autism have access to important treatment and care.

Currently, individuals with autism in New York are routinely denied insurance coverage for the costs of treatment and care. Families are then forced to either spend tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket to cover the costs or skip important treatment. The proposed law would

require insurance companies to provide coverage for the costs of diagnosing and treating autism.