



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Robert G. Ortt

## New Laws to Help Individuals with Special Needs

ROBERT G. ORTT August 27, 2018

| ISSUE: **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AUTISM**



New York State has a long and proud tradition of being a leader in caring for people with special needs.

Building on this commitment, I am pleased to announce that two bills I supported in the Senate to help individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities have been signed into law.

The first measure, which I sponsored, requires the state to establish new screening guidelines for autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in children under four years old. Screening is a way to detect a disorder, such as autism, before the onset of symptoms. Previously, there had been no standardized screening approach for the early identification of autism.

Recent studies indicate that early detection and treatment have proven to be highly beneficial for the well-being of children who are on the autism spectrum, and thanks to this legislation, established and consistent screening guidelines will now be in place. This will make certain that all parents and children, regardless of where they are tested, receive the most effective and beneficial methods that medical providers have to offer.

The second law creates a new optional identification card to help improve communication with people who have developmental disabilities. The new optional identification cards can be given to law enforcement or other first responders in an emergency and convey important details, such as potential difficulties with interpersonal communication or physical contact, or an inability to respond verbally, as well as additional contact information. Creation of an official document with consistent language, appearance, and application standards will improve the ability of individuals with developmental disabilities across the state to effectively communicate important information about their diagnoses.

I will continue to do all that I can to support individuals with special needs and will be sure to keep you posted on my efforts.

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RELATED LEGISLATION

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**2017-S8955**

- 
- Introduced
  
  - - In Committee Assembly
    - In Committee Senate
  
  - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
    - On Floor Calendar Senate
  
  - - Passed Assembly
    - Passed Senate
  
  - Delivered to Governor
  
  - Signed By Governor
  
  -

Relates to autism screening for children three years of age and under

June 07, 2018

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by **Robert G. Ort**

Do you support this bill?