



WISCONSIN AUTISM INSURANCE NOW

To secure the right of insurance coverage for Wisconsin citizens with autism.

Parents & Advocates Call Upon Candidates to Support Autism Coverage

Coalition Members

Autism Society of
Wisconsin

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Wisconsin Early
Autism Project

Milwaukee, WI...Autism advocates, parents and providers gathered in Milwaukee today to launch "Wisconsin Autism Insurance Now," a new coalition dedicated to educating legislative candidates about the importance of insurance coverage for autism treatment. Legislation was introduced last year which would have required group insurance policies to cover autism services. The bill overwhelmingly passed the State Senate with bipartisan support, but the measure stalled in the State Assembly.

Wiebusch-
Nicholson Center
for Autism

"Autism has become a serious public health concern, impacting 1 in 150 children across the country, and unfortunately some families are not receiving the treatment they so desperately need. The time to act is now," said Amy Masek, parent of a child with autism and co-chair of Wisconsin Autism Insurance Now.

Beyond Boundaries
of Autism

Wisconsin has a medical assistance program in place to help families get the treatment they need, but the program is inadequate to address the large numbers of children being diagnosed with autism and as a result many families are being left behind. Because of limited state resources, hundreds of Wisconsin children with autism are on a waiting list to receive treatment. There are many more kids who have been recently diagnosed, but have not yet qualified to be on the waiting list. As a result, both the list and the time spent waiting to begin vital treatment is constantly growing. Studies have shown that delays can seriously impact the eventual outcome of treatment.

Autism Behavioral
Network

To address this problem, states across the country, such as South Carolina, Florida, Texas, Minnesota, Louisiana and Indiana, have enacted bipartisan legislation to require insurance companies to cover autism services.

Autism
Intervention
Milwaukee

"More and more states are enacting legislation which require insurance companies to cover autism treatment services. Wisconsin should not be left behind," said Nissan Bar-Lev, co-chair of Wisconsin Autism Insurance Now.

ANGEL Network

Fox Valley Autism
Treatment Program

The coalition released a public opinion poll today that revealed overwhelming support for such policies in Wisconsin. The poll results indicate that **85% of Wisconsinites support a new law requiring insurance companies to cover treatment for children with autism.** The poll found broad-based support among Republicans, Democrats, Independents, as well as all age groups, income levels and among both men and women.

Reaching Your
Potential

Innovative
Counseling, Inc.

"We are reaching out to every legislative candidate in Wisconsin this campaign season to educate them about this important issue and to ask where they stand on whether insurance companies should be required to cover autism services," said Masek.

Friends of Autism

Wisconsin Autism Insurance Now is a diverse, statewide coalition that includes: Autism Society of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Early Autism Project, Wiebusch-Nicholson Center for Autism, Beyond Boundaries of Autism, Autism Behavioral Network, Autism Intervention Milwaukee, ANGEL Network, Fox Valley Autism Treatment Program, Reaching Your Potential, Friends of Autism, and Innovative Counseling, Inc.