

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

## **ACTION ALERT: Autism Speaks Launches an Autism Treatment Acceleration Act (ATAA) Ad This Week and YOUR HELP NEEDED To Connect With Congress**

This week, [Autism Speaks](#) is launching a major ad campaign supporting federal autism insurance reform with the goal to be the LOUDEST VOICE ON CAPITOL HILL and move these bills forward.

### **YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VITAL.**

ALL of our voices are needed to make sure this ad hits home for **Oregon's Congressional Delegation!**

In a state with one of the highest prevalence rates in the nation, it is imperative that they sign on and help our kids.

Click on the picture for the full size ad

Healthcare for Children with  
Autism is Not Created Equal



Evan lives in a state that has banned discrimination by the insurance industry against children with autism. His treatments are covered. His neighbor, Jack, isn't covered because his parents have insurance that is regulated by Congress.

Every child with autism deserves the same insurance coverage as any other child—in any state.

Call Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell at (202) 224-3121 and Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner at (202) 225-3121. Tell them it's time for Congress to end autism insurance discrimination.



This ad campaign is being placed in various publications to raise awareness about the need for CONGRESS TO ACT on Federal autism insurance reform and for members of Congress TO BECOME CO-SPONSORS of the **Autism Treatment Acceleration Act (ATAA)**, [S. 819 in the U.S. Senate](#), and [H.R. 2413 in the U.S. House of Representatives](#).

One key provision of the **ATAA** requires insurance companies from COAST TO COAST to provide coverage of medically necessary autism treatments, such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy.

Let's make sure that OUR Senators and Representatives SEE THIS AD OVER AND OVER AGAIN and HEAR FROM FAMILIES and friends of families affected by autism--EACH DAY THIS WEEK!

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**  
in 4 steps  
**Download-Fax-Follow up-Forward**

**1. Download** and print out a copy of the Autism Speaks ATAA ad [HERE!](#)

**2. FAX** a personalized copy of the ad to our Federal Senators and House District Representatives!

After printing out a copy of the ad, find a good spot on the ad itself, or on a separate sheet of paper, to write a *short personal message* asking your Senators and House Representative to cosponsor these bills, [S.819](#) in the Senate and [H.R. 2413](#) in the House.

BE SURE to include the bill number in your message.

Neither of our federal Senators, Sen. Ron Wyden and Sen. Jeff Merkley, *nor any other member* of the Oregon Delegation to Congress has yet agreed to co-sponsor ATAA - [S. 819/H.R. 2413](#), even though Representatives DeFazio, Wu and Blumenauer are members of the Congressional Autism Caucus.

[To find the Fax and Phone information for Congressional Representatives](#)



**[Senator Ron Wyden](#)**

**Fax:** 202-228-2717; **Phone:** 202-224-5244



**[Senator Jeff Merkley](#)**

**Fax:** 202-228-3997 **Phone:** 202-224-3753



**[Representative David Wu](#)** [**District 1**-Clatsop, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill and part of Multnomah.]

**Fax:** 202-225-9497 **Phone:** 202-225-0855

[list continued on next page]



**Representative Greg Walden** [District 2-Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Grants Pass area of Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco and Wheeler.]  
**Fax:** 202-225-5774 **Phone:** 202-225-6730



**Representative Earl Blumenauer** [District 3-Most of Multnomah and northern part of Clackamas]  
**Fax:** 202-225-8941 **Phone:** 202-225-4811



**Representative Peter DeFazio** [District 4-Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Linn, most of Benton and Josephine.]  
**Fax:** 202-225-0032 **Phone:** 202-225-6416



**Representative Kurt Schrader** [District 5-All of Lincoln, Marion, Polk and Tillamook, parts of northern Benton, most of Clackamas and parts of southwestern Multnomah]  
**Fax:** 202-225-5699 **Phone:** 202-225-5711

### 3. Follow up with a phone call saying,

*"Hi. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am your constituent and live in (City, STATE). I am calling to be sure that you received a copy of the advertisement that I faxed to your office regarding the Autism Treatment Acceleration Act. I would like Senator/Congressman (Name) to cosponsor this important piece of legislation. The bill number is S. 819 (if you are calling a Senator) or H.R. 2413 (if you are calling a House Representative). Thank you so much. I will keep checking back to see if he/she has signed on because this is very important to me."*

### 4. Forward this to as many people as you can, and ask them to do the same thing!

THEY DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A CHILD WITH AUTISM. Post on message boards in your state or forward to coworkers, neighbors, friends and family and ask them to help you help your child by pressing for appropriate insurance coverage for the premiums you pay!

***Spread the word, get people involved and watch our Representatives really start to sign up to help!***

[For more information on the Autism Treatment Acceleration Act at Autism Votes](#)  
[To register for further alerts about the ATAA and other pertinent issues in our state](#)

[Past blog posts on the Autism Treatment Acceleration Acts S. 819 & H.R. 2413](#)