

Support of Maryland HB627 introduced by Delegate Kelly



Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication.

Approximately 1 in 44 children in the nation have been diagnosed with autism, a nearly 24% increase since 2016.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is an evidence-based treatment that can improve the quality of life of people with autism. The therapy is tailored to the needs of each person with the goal of building skills and reducing dangerous or harmful behaviors. Treatment plans can be intensive and could require up to 40 hours of therapy each week.

Autism Speaks urges Maryland to adopt HB627 as behavior technicians are a vital part of the team providing ABA therapy.

ABA is routinely delivered by a multidisciplinary team including the Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA), sometimes including a Certified Behavior Analyst Assistant (CBAA), and always including a “Behavior Technician.” Behavior technicians do not design plans; however, they are critical for carrying out the ABA plan. HB627 will ensure the work of behavior technicians is recognized and reimbursed during the credentialing process.

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the lifespan, for the needs of people with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.

To date, Autism Speaks has helped more than 22 million people and their families, invested more than \$220 million in scientific grants for autism research, and successfully advocated for additional insurance coverage for individuals with autism in all 50 states.

The Autism Speaks Advocacy Team works across the country to achieve this mission focusing on the following priorities:

- Increase global understanding and acceptance of people with autism
- Be a catalyst for life-enhancing research breakthroughs
- Increase early childhood screening and timely intervention
- Improve outcomes for transition to adulthood across the spectrum
- Ensuring access to reliable information & services throughout the lifespan

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Julie Hart, Director of State Government Affairs
Julie.hart@autismspeaks.org | (518) 505-7833