



**Statement of Christopher Banks, President and CEO**

**Special Committee on Aging**

**March 23, 2022**

"Medicaid is the largest payer for long-term services and supports. However, due to interminable state waiting lists for services in the community, the majority of individuals with Autism live with family members, sometimes until the parents die. This leaves the individual in an emergency situation, often leading to unnecessary and unwanted institutionalization. Providing home and community-based services reduces burdens on families and help them get back to work. Our nation must value people with Autism and their families. Thank you to the Senate Special Committee on Aging for holding this important hearing. The Autism Society of America urges Congress to support the Better Care Better Jobs Act now. It is in the nation's interest to fully fund home and community-based services and supports so that all individuals can be supported to live, work, and recreate in the community alongside their family and friends."

For more information, please contact Kim Musheno, Vice President of Public Policy at [kmusheno@autism-society.org](mailto:kmusheno@autism-society.org).