

Dear Member of Congress,

Congratulations on being sworn in as a member of the 118th Congress! As the nation's oldest and largest leading grassroots Autism organization, the [Autism Society of America](#) and its [69 affiliates in 33 states](#) serve over half a million members of the Autism community each year, including in your state. The Autism Society's mission is to create connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully. The Society envisions a world where everyone in the Autism community is connected to the support they need when they need it, including education, advocacy efforts, and support and services throughout the lifespan.

The Autism Society of America developed a focused set of [legislative goals](#) to guide our work over the next two years. These include legislation to reauthorize and expand the Autism CARES Act, support direct services professionals and increase home and community-based services, increase employment opportunities, prevent restraints and seclusion in schools, provide safe interactions with law enforcement and first responders, and prevent injuries related to water safety and drowning. In addition, the Autism Society jointly developed [public policy goals](#) with eight other leading national disability organizations for the 118th Congress outlining the needs of people with disabilities and their families.

Over the past two years, the Autism community continued to face extraordinary challenges during the Covid-19 crisis, yet through the uncertainty, we saw our community persevere, progress and find resiliency. The Autism Society continued to advocate to address health inequities related to the pandemic, created supports, expanded our reach and launched a new brand. We are proud to fulfill our mission to [create connections](#), empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully. Over 34,000 individuals participated in our local support groups; 1.2 million people accessed resources and education

materials on our national website; 230,000 people engaged with national's posts and content on social media; and 204,000 people attended events across the country.

We hope you consider joining the Bipartisan Autism Caucus led by Representatives Chris Smith and Henry Cuellar.

Congratulations again on your election and the start of the 118th session. We hope you will support our efforts to ensure the critical needs of those with Autism and their families are addressed.

Please contact me or our Vice President of Public Policy, Kim Musheno (kmusheno@autism-society.org) with any questions regarding policies that impact people with Autism.

Sincerely,



Christopher Banks

President and CEO

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