State Advocacy Goals

Through our nationwide network of 70+ affiliates, the Autism Society engages with state and local government agencies, school systems, and local non-profits that provide direct services to the Autism community. The Autism Society supports affiliates to build capacity, develop coalitions, provide resources and training, and advocate for legislative goals and strategies that will ultimately help individuals with Autism and their families participate fully in their communities.

The information below outlines various state legislation efforts related to essential services and supports for the Autism community.

Increase access to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

Goal: Expand access and transparency for the Home and Community-Based Medicaid waivers.
- Support HCBS providers and the direct service workforce, like IL SB 2026 and NV SB 511 (budget bill).
- Increase access to waivers, like MD HB 1149.
- Expand efforts to address housing and mental health support access, like PA HB 849.

Vaccine Access

Goal: Ensure all vaccines are accessible to the Autism community.
- Ensure the COVID-19 vaccine remains affordable for individuals, as MA HD 4175 and MA S 681 proposes.
- Expand those who are qualified to administer vaccines, such as KS SB 131 and MI SB 219.

Indiana

The Autism Society of Indiana advocated for these bills last session and will continue advocating for them as we approach next session.
- House Bill 1342, or the Direct Care Professional Registry.
- Expand Access to Healthcare.
- House Bill 1213, or the Community Integration Habilitation Waiver.
- Support Employment for Individuals with Disabilities.
- House Bill 1559, or the Employment of Individuals with Disabilities Bill.

Restraint and Seclusion

Goal: Promote and support state legislation that prohibits the use of seclusion and limits the use of restraint in schools.
- IL HB 0219
- Model bill toolkit put together by the Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint.

Wandering

Goal: Promote and support legislation and policies that reduce accidents that result from wandering.
- Amend existing adult missing alerts to include the Autism Community KS SB 287.