

# 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.

## Safety

**Goal: Promote and support legislation that empowers individuals with Autism as they navigate first responders and the criminal legal system.**

- Create a missing alert for people with Autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities who wander. [KS HB 2531](#), [FL HB 937](#), [KY SB 45](#) & [MD HB 195](#).
- Require Autism training for police. [IL SB 3201](#) & [VA HB 1246](#).
- Allow for the consideration of mental condition and intellectual and developmental disabilities in criminal proceedings. [VA SB 1315](#) & [KY HB 385](#).

## Access to Care in the Community

**Goal: Expand access to care in the community through HCBS, caregiver credits, and housing and mental health supports.**

- Support HCBS providers and caregivers. [NM HB 395](#), [NE LB 937 \(sec. 35\)](#), [IL SB 2026](#), [IL SB 3432](#), [KY HB 6 \(sec. 20\)](#), & [NV SB 511 \(sec. 74\)](#).
- Increase access to waivers. [MD HB 1149](#) & [VA 2024 budget bill](#).
- Expand efforts to address housing and mental health support access. [PA HB 849](#), [ME HP 639](#) & [IN SB 1](#).

## Education

**Goal: Ensure access to education by supporting students and educators, as well as providing a safe learning environment.**

- Support students and their families during IEP meetings. [MD HB 336](#) & [MD HB 903](#).
- Prohibit the use of seclusion and limit the use of restraints. [IL HB 0219](#) & [Model bill toolkit](#).
- Recruit and retain educators. [KY HB 377](#), [NJ A 5416](#), [LA SB 205](#), & [KY SB 265](#).
- Ensure higher education is accessible and attainable. [IL SB 0099](#), [VA SB 21](#), [MN HF 4024 \(sec. 9\)](#), & [ME HP 1386](#).

## Health Equity

**Goal: Ensure access to medical support for the Autism community.**

- Support medical professionals in their ability to treat patients with Autism and other developmental disabilities. [NY A 1665](#), [MA S 1398](#), [MA S 1401](#), [MA H 1252](#).
- Expand those who are qualified to administer vaccines. [OH SB 144](#), [KS SB 131](#) and [MI SB 219](#).