



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES (CCD)
AUTISM TASK FORCE STATEMENT ON AUTISM CARES
(H.R. 4631/S. 2449)
June 11, 2014**

Legislation to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act is now advancing through both houses of Congress with bipartisan support and bicameral agreement on a new five-year federal funding response to coordinate research and training. The CCD commends the sponsors, Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Mike Doyle (D-PA) in the House and Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Mike Enzi (R-WY) in the Senate, for moving expeditiously to complete the reauthorization effort before the current law sunsets September 30.

The CCD is a coalition of over 110 national consumer, advocacy, provider, and professional organizations working together with and on behalf of the approximately 57 million children and adults with disabilities and their families living in the United States. CCD advocates for national public policy that ensures full equality, self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The law has helped to expand research and coordination at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), increased public awareness and surveillance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and expanded the interdisciplinary and inter-professional training of health professionals to identify and support children and youth with ASD and their families through programs of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The House (H.R.4631) and Senate (S.2449) bills will renew these efforts and make the following amendments:

- Renames the law to Autism CARES (the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support Act).
- Establishes the National Autism Spectrum Disorder Initiative, requiring the HHS Secretary to designate an existing HHS official to serve as the key point person in coordinating federal autism efforts and ensuring that these efforts are not unnecessarily duplicative.
- Directs HHS to prepare a report to Congress regarding the needs of young adults and transitioning youth with an autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disability, and the challenges they face transitioning from school-based services to adult services.
- Reforms the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) by expanding its role in monitoring and developing a strategic plan for autism spectrum disorder, and by requiring additional non-federal members, including at least two individuals on the autism spectrum, at least two parents or legal guardians of individuals on the autism spectrum, and at least two representatives of leading research, service, and advocacy organizations.

CCD supports this compromise bill and urges the House and Senate to move the bill forward quickly and not let this law expire. For more information, please contact the [CCD Autism Task Force co-chairs](#):

Kim Musheno
Association of University
Centers on Disabilities
301-588-8252
kmusheno@aucd.org

Stuart Spielman
Autism Speaks
202-955-3312
sspielman@autismspeaks.org

Annie Acosta
The Arc
202-783-2229
acosta@thearc.org

Cindy Smith
National Disability Rights
Network
Phone: 202-408-9514
Cindy.smith@ndrn.org

Jill Kagan
National Respite Coalition
703-256-957
jbkagan@verizon.net

