

LIVING WITH AUTISM IN GEORGIA

DID YOU KNOW?

The CDC estimates that 1 in 68 children have an autism spectrum disorder



1/3 of these children are **non-verbal**? Many children will *never* learn to speak or communicate without access to care

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Surgeon General have endorsed speech therapy, occupational therapy physical therapy and behavioral health treatments (including Applied Behavior Analysis) for the treatment of autism

Even with these endorsements, health plans in Georgia do not cover, or severely limit coverage for these evidence-based treatments for autism

34 states require health insurance to cover evidence-based autism treatment? *Average premium impact runs 31 cents per month*

Research indicates that with intensive early intervention, almost half of the children diagnosed with autism will not need any special education supports when entering first grade?
Children with autism have tremendous potential and can lead, happy productive lives if given appropriate access to care



Without treatment, the average cost of caring for a person with autism, according to a 2007 study from the Harvard School of Public Health, is \$3.2 million



Ava's Law is endorsed by the Georgia Medical Society, Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Marcus Autism Center

Here's How You Can Help:

Please contact your state representatives and ask them to pass Ava's Law, ensuring that Georgia's children with autism access the treatment they need

Share this information with your employer and community

Learn more at <http://www.autismspeaks.org/advocacy/state/georgia>
And <https://www.facebook.com/avaslaw>