



Health Reform for Individuals and Families Affected by Autism

Greater Choices and Stable Coverage for Americans with Autism

- ✓ Autistic children can no longer be denied health coverage based on their diagnosis, as insurance companies are now prohibited from excluding children from coverage based on a pre-existing condition. (Sec. 2704) Beginning in 2014, this will apply to adults as well. (Sec. 2705)
- ✓ Allows children to stay on their parents' health plan until they turn 26, giving families with young adult dependents additional options for health coverage. (Sec. 2714)
- ✓ Ensures that individuals will not have their insurance coverage rescinded if they are diagnosed with autism. (Sec. 2712)
- ✓ For new plans beginning after September 23, 2010, individuals can select their own primary care physician from among any participating providers, and parents can choose a pediatrician from among any participating providers. (Sec. 2719A)

Quality, Affordable Health Care for Americans with Autism

- ✓ Caps what insurance companies can require families to pay in out-of-pocket expenses, such as co-pays and deductibles, prohibits lifetime limits on how much insurance companies cover if beneficiaries get sick, and regulates the use of annual limits to ensure access to necessary care. (Sec. 2711)
- ✓ Establishes a private, nonprofit research institute to conduct research projects that provide quality, relevant evidence on how diseases, disorders, and other health conditions, like autism, can effectively and appropriately be prevented, diagnosed, treated, monitored, and managed. (Sec. 6301)
- ✓ Establishes and funds the development of community health teams to support the development of medical homes by increasing access to comprehensive, community based, coordinated care for individuals with autism. (Sec. 3502)
- ✓ Provides states the option of enrolling Medicaid beneficiaries with chronic conditions into a health home. (Sec. 2703)

Preventative Services for Americans with Autism

- ✓ New plans beginning after September 23, 2010 are required to cover certain preventative services without cost-sharing. These services include autism screenings for children at 18 and 24 months, and behavioral assessments for children of all ages. These free preventative services will help families manage their child's diagnosis earlier and more effectively. (Sec. 2713)
- ✓ Invests in prevention and public health to encourage innovations in health care that prevent illness and disease before they require more costly treatments. (Sec. 4002)

Expanding the Health Care Workforce to Treat Autism

- ✓ Community health centers will receive \$11 billion over five years, increasing access to care for people with autism living in medically underserved areas. (Sec. 2303)
- ✓ Establishes a loan repayment program for pediatric subspecialists and providers of mental and behavioral health services to children and adolescents. (Sec. 5203)
- ✓ Establishes training grants for schools specializing in graduate psychology and professional training in child and adolescent mental and behavioral health. (Sec. 5306)
- ✓ Increases funding for community-based mental and behavioral health settings providing primary and specialty care, including services for individuals with autism. (Sec. 5604)