



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John A. DeFrancisco

Senate Passes Autism Insurance Bill

JOHN A. DEFRANCISCO June 10, 2010

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SENATE PASSES AUTISM INSURANCE BILL

Bill Would Provide Insurance Coverage for Screening, Diagnosis
and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders

Senator John A. DeFrancisco (R-I-C, Syracuse) today announced that legislation he co-sponsored regarding insurance coverage for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders has passed the Senate and has been delivered to the Assembly.

“The bill would close an insurance gap that individuals diagnosed with autism currently face,” said Senator John A. DeFrancisco.

“I am pleased that those with the autism spectrum disorder will have a better chance of early diagnosis, and more clearly-defined coverage in their insurance policies,” said Senator DeFrancisco. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that the number of children with autism is

1 in 110 nationwide.

This bill requires insurance policies to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Coverage would specifically be required for the group of neurological conditions known as "autism spectrum disorder", limited only by whatever restrictions are otherwise contained in the policy.

The bill amends existing provisions of the insurance law to require coverage under health insurance policies issued by indemnity and nonprofit insurers, as well as health maintenance organizations.

Coverage would also be subject to utilization review, medical necessity determinations and appropriate case management. The legislation insures that only those treatments and therapies, which have been determined by recognized medical authority, as evidence-based and clinically proven will be covered.

"I am hopeful that the Assembly will pass this bill in the near future so that it can become law, and so that autism can be diagnosed and treated as early as possible, which no doubt will give children the best chance of reaching their highest potential."

For full text of the bill, please visit:

<http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/S7000B>