



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

Senator Ritchie Hails Signing of Autism Bill

PATTY RITCHIE November 1, 2011

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New York Now 29th State To Provide Coverage To Families

State Senator Patty Ritchie hailed the signing of a new law she supported that will insure that families dealing with autism can obtain the kind of treatment they need.

“Early diagnosis and treatment can make a critical difference for the one out of 110 children and their families affected by autism spectrum disorder,” said Senator Patty Ritchie. “With more than 30,000 children under the age of 19 in New York State identified with autism, this legislation will insure that families can obtain the care they need when they need it.”

“This new law will insure that families will no longer suffer severe economic hardships or have to forgo effective early treatment for their children when they are diagnosed with autism,” Senator Ritchie said. “I want to thank Governor Cuomo for helping to make sure that every family across the Empire State has access to the kind of care they need so every child has an opportunity to lead a better and more productive life.”

The measure, which received unanimous support in both the assembly and the senate, will expand health insurance coverage for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Under the legislation, New York State becomes the 29th state to insure that autism is covered by health insurance.

Under the new law, health insurance companies will be required to provide coverage for treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Coverage is subject to deductibles, co-pays, and coinsurance consistent with those imposed on other benefits.