

Molinaro Helps Improve Health Coverage For Autism

Yesterday, I joined Governor Andrew Cuomo for his signing of Assembly bill 6305, which requires health-insurance providers to cover conditions related to Autism Spectrum Disorders. I proudly sponsored, voted for, and helped pass the legislation, which I believe will aid in the fight against autism and help families across our state.

As you know, our daughter, Abigail lives with a neurological disorder that places her on the Autism Spectrum. As a parent and legislator, Autism awareness, research and education is a priority as one in 110 children is diagnosed with this complex neurological disorder.

I am thankful to Governor Cuomo for his support of this incredibly important issue. I am proud that we passed legislation, which will have a positive impact for New York's families and will help so many affected by autism. The bill enables coverage for early screening and intervention - both important to combating ASD and helping individuals living on the Spectrum achieve their greatest potential and live a life of great dignity.

With the measure's ratification, New York joins 23 other states in requiring coverage for conditions relating to Autism Spectrum Disorders. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates that autism affects one in 110 children

Families are forced to pay considerable out-of-pocket expenses to provide treatment for ASD. These costs can be as much as \$50,000 a year. This legislation is a major step toward treating ASD as we treat any other health related challenge, while also balancing a need to limit any increases in insurance premiums.

I am proud to have sponsored and supported this legislation which New Yorkers affected by autism receive the care they deserve.

Best regards,

Marcus Molinaro
State Assemblyman, 103rd district