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Bill 301 AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Our son, Gabriel Ewart, is 29 months old. He is mostly happy, loves to play the piano, loves to be hugged, and throws the ball sometimes when prompted.

Diagnosis

- Diagnosed with ASD on Dec 12, 2008 at age 27 months
 - Lowest 1% across all fields
 - Visual Reception score: 11 months
 - Fine Motor score: 14 months
 - Receptive Language score: 8 months
 - Expressive Language score: 9 months
- At 1 year old he would say “dada”, “mama”, “aqua”, “ball”, and “eat.” 17 months later he does not say words. Dada is now “Dee” and eat is “eee”. The vast majority of the time he will not look us in the eye and will not come when we call his name.
- He has had clear reactions to cow’s milk, bread, and various other foods. His stools have been clearly abnormal for a long time. He often scratches and has rashes.



Treatment efforts

- Gastro-intestinal doctor because he has a continuous problem with his stools
- Altered diet to avoid gluten, casein (in cow’s milk), rice almonds, corn, preservatives, and nitrates (His behavior and stools have responded dramatically at times.)
- Doctor who specializes in diet, supplements, and other physiological aspects of ASD
- ABA and speech therapy through Birth to Three (which lasts another 8 months)
- Hours each day reading and researching (it’s common for Gabriel’s mother to be up until 2AM researching)

Costs

- \$1200 for an initial visit to the ASD doctor
- \$600 for initial tests
- \$240 for a visit to a naturalist doctor to address diet and biological issues
- \$300 on books
- \$200+ on supplements
- Hundreds of dollars of additional costs for specialized diet
- \$70 per month on insurance to allow use of out of network providers (co pay is 30%)

To pay for treatment, we are cashing in our retirement savings. When his Birth to Three programming ends, we’ll incur additional costs. I am stunned that in a state like Connecticut, the devastation of the diagnosis can be followed by devastation of the pocketbook.