

FIR

February 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

From: Dorothy Lomazzo  
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Re: Senate Bill 974, Health  
> Insurance Coverage For Alternative Therapies For Autism:  
> Mandate

As a mother of a son with Autism, I support SB974. I feel this is an important bill as it will provide insurance coverage for necessary interventions for children with Autism. I am also a first grade teacher and have seen first-hand the developmental difference of autistic children who do not receive early intervention therapies. There are countless scientifically based research journals to validate the importance of early intervention and its long-term benefits for individuals on the Autistic Spectrum. Unfortunately, the cost of these interventions is not covered by insurance as they are for children with other disabilities such as Downs Syndrome. My husband and I have estimated that we have spent \$200.00 per week for ten years for our son.

Please consider passing this bill for the sake of many children in the autistic spectrum and their families who love them.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Lomazzo