



Support House Bill 1588

The Virginia Family Autism Act

Autism is treatable. Insurance should cover treatment.

Facts about Autism...

- Autism is a complex, treatable, lifelong, neurobiological disorder that is diagnosed by a medical doctor
- Autism affects more than 7,000 students in Virginia. This number grew by 400% between 1998 and 2006
- Health insurance companies currently exclude meaningful coverage for autism treatments and therapies, such as applied behavior analysis (ABA)
- If left untreated, the average societal cost of caring for one person with autism is \$3.2 million (2007 Harvard study)

Meet Tyler and Bella..

Tyler and Bella are brother and sister. They live with their family in Franklin County, VA. They both have autism. They both need treatment.



House Bill 1588 will...

- Require health insurance companies to provide coverage for autism services
- Help the more than 7,000 children in Virginia get access to medically necessary, evidence-based autism services up to age 21 with an annual cap of \$36,000
- Enable children with autism to get access to early intervention, avoiding expensive lifelong care
- Allow individuals with autism in Virginia to live self-sufficient, dignified lives
- Add Virginia to the growing list of states with comprehensive autism insurance coverage, including AZ, FL, IL, IN, LA, PA, SC, and TX

Please support the passage of HB 1588
Sponsored by Delegates Robert Marshall and David Poisson

Thank you for being part of the solution for Virginia families dealing with the challenges of autism. *Tyler and Bella thank you too.*

For more information, please contact the VA Grassroots Family Autism Campaign:

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