

The NJ Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community (COSAC)

Legislative Priorities for 2008-2009

Throughout the legislative session ending January 7, 2008, COSAC has worked with legislators on a number of bills affecting people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). This work has addressed bills on special education, insurance coverage for ABA, diagnosis and referrals of children with ASDs, the Adults with Autism Task Force, and many more.

On January 8, 2008, the new session of the New Jersey Legislature began. Sixteen of the 40 Senators sworn into office that day were new, while the Assembly welcomed 27 new faces among the 80 Assembly members taking office.

We need your help!

As we begin the next legislative session, we would like to know what issues affecting people with ASDs you consider most important. This will help COSAC determine its legislative priorities and where to direct our efforts for the next two years.

Please check your top 3 priorities

Use the list below or include some of your own priorities using the space provided on the back of this sheet.

- Public safety for people with ASDs – for example police and EMT training
- State budget – ensuring continued funding for items related to ASDs such as day programs, respite services, and family support services.
- Employment/Supported employment services
- Special education – availability and regulation of appropriate educational services and therapies.
- Health care – issues about cost, availability, access to appropriate care, etc.
- Prescription medication – cost and availability
- Insurance coverage for medically necessary services, therapies, and interventions
- Housing and residential supports for people with ASDs

- Civil Rights for people with ASDs – community living, appropriate housing, adequate employment, etc.
- Transportation – for school, employment, and recreation
- Transition services – from school to work and/or community living
- Regulation of service providers – medical services and therapies
- Autism research – encouraging basic and applied research
- Medicaid – access to service providers, timely and comprehensive services, etc.
- Assistive technology – adaptive devices to help with communication and activities of daily living

Other Priority Areas

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Additional Comments

**Thank you for your support.
Please complete and return this form to:**

**Leslie Long, Director of Public Policy and Systems Advocacy
COSAC, 1450 Parkside Ave. Suite 22, Ewing, NJ 08638**

**Or email Debbie Charette, Coordinator of Public Policy and Systems Advocacy:
debbie.charette@njcosac.org**