

Written Testimony on HB 2395  
Presented Wednesday, March 20, 2013  
House Insurance Committee

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

I am writing to you in support of pushing through insurance coverage for Autism. I feel that EVERY child or adult that is on any level of the Autism Spectrum should have the same coverage as well as the families that are covered by the state. There are so many families that struggle everyday with finances that rapidly rise each month when they are trying to care and provide therapies that are greatly needed for their loved ones. Autism hits most at such a young age and the expenses are through the roof and most families have to refrain from the proper care that is needed because of no insurance coverage to help them out! I know from my own family experiences that the proper care and therapies will help these children and adults that live on the spectrum everyday of their lives. We need more people to be trained in our educational system to assist in their teaching abilities as well. My daughter and son-in-law have started an Autism Support Group in Chanute, Kansas which is called Autism Hope for Families. They have a 3 year daughter that was diagnosed with Autism when she was just under 2 years old. They dug right in to start researching any means of financial help , doctors, therapies and home care help if needed. My daughter was lucky enough to find a child care provider that has experience with working with special needs children and helps in anyway she can. My daughter works in District 413 of Education. She is a second grade teacher and is trying to help teachers get more training for providing the everyday needs in helping there special students daily. These families are trying to do the best for their children, but fall short if they cannot afford the financial aid that is needed so badly. I strongly support your best efforts forward to pass more awareness and financial support with our State of Kansas Insurance to be available to all in need. Not just the State of Kansas employees and families.

Thank You for listening.

Concerned Grandmother of a Beautiful Autistic Granddaughter, Raylin Jacobs.

Shelley Naughton  
Chanute, Kansas