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August 28, 2019

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H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Mitch McConnell  
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317 Russell Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. John Thune  
Majority Whip  
SD-511  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
House Committee on Energy and  
Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. James E. Clyburn  
Majority Whip  
H-329. The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

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Minority Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
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Hon. Steve Scalise  
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Hon. Richard J. Durbin  
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Hon. Greg Walden  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and  
Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders,

We, a bipartisan group of attorneys general, ardently request that you reauthorize the Autism CARES Act since the current law<sup>1</sup> sunsets on

1850 M Street, NW  
Twelfth Floor  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: (202) 326-6000  
<http://www.naag.org/>

<sup>1</sup> 42 U.S.C.A. § 284g

September 30, 2019. The number of individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (“ASD”) continues to rise, and the Autism CARES Act of 2019, H.R. 1058 and S. 427, responds to this national concern with a cohesive interagency effort.

According to the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, one out of every fifty-nine children in America is diagnosed with ASD. Yet, ASD within minority communities tends to be diagnosed less often and much later. Reauthorizing the Autism CARES Act will specifically incentivize ASD programs and research in America’s rural and underdeveloped communities.

Nearly half of 25-year old individuals with ASD have never held employment<sup>2</sup>; as a result, the CARES Act of 2019 prioritizes community-based solutions to better incorporate adults with ASD into society. Research indicates that job activities encourage independence that relieves autism-related symptoms while reinforcing daily life skills.<sup>3</sup> In addition, this may help alleviate some of the strain on parents of individuals with ASD. On average, mothers of children with ASD are only able to maintain about half as many work hours as mothers without children with ASD.<sup>4</sup>

ASD impacts hundreds of thousands of Americans. Congress began addressing autism in 2000 with the first enactment of the bill. The 161 cosponsors of the current House and Senate bills and the 118+ bipartisan members of the Congressional Coalition for Autism Research and Education demonstrate its significance. The Autism CARES Act of 2019 will continue Congress’ ongoing mission to ensure that those living with ASD receive the necessary support and research. Therefore, we, the undersigned attorneys general, ask you to support and to enact the Autism CARES Act of 2019 before September 30, 2019.

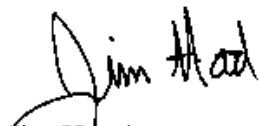
Sincerely Yours,



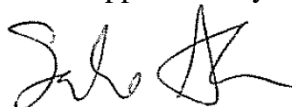
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Jim Hood  
Mississippi Attorney General



Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale  
American Samoa Attorney General

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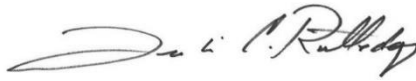
<sup>2</sup>Anna M. Roux, Paul C. Shattuck, *et al*, *Postsecondary Empl. Experiences Among Young Adults With an Autism Spectrum Disorder*, *J. Am. Acad. Child Adolescent Psych.* 2013 Sept., 52(9): 931–939 (July 31, 2013) (available at [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3753691/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3753691/)).

<sup>3</sup>Vanessa Hus Bal, So-Hyun Kim, *et al*, *Daily Living Skills in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder from 2 to 21 Years of Age*, *Autism*. 2015 Oct; 19(7): 774–784 (April 28, 2015) (available at [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4912002/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4912002/)).

<sup>4</sup>Khim Lynn Ooi, Yin Sin Ong, *et al*, *A Meta-Synthesis On Parenting a Child with Autism*, *Neuropsych. Disorder Treatment* 2016; 12: 745–762 (April 5, 2016) (available at [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4827600/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4827600/)).



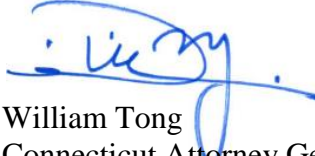
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Kathleen Jennings  
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Karl A. Racine  
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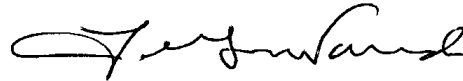
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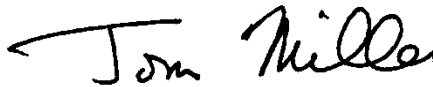
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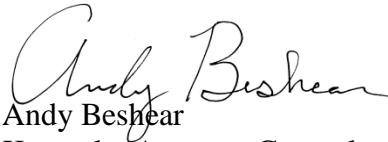
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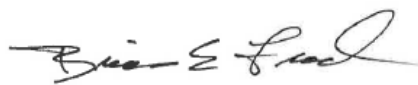
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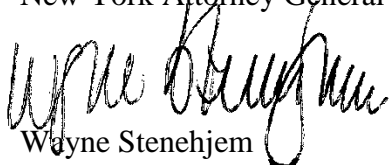
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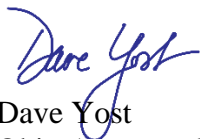
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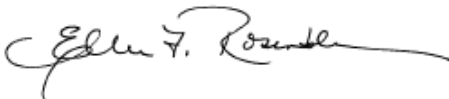
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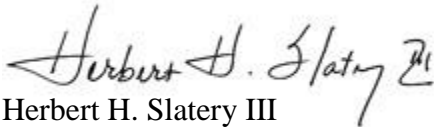
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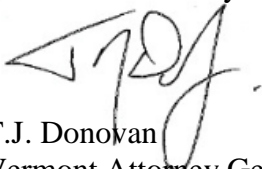
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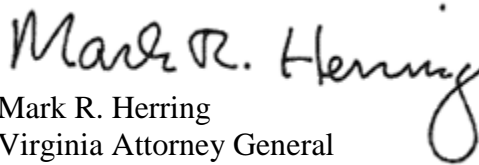
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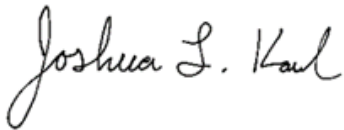
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