February 7, 2019

The Honorable Mike Enzi
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Menendez and Enzi and Representatives Smith and Doyle,

The Autism Society of America is writing to thank you for your leadership introducing a bill to reauthorize and improve the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support (CARES) Act. Since its enactment in 2006, this law has significantly increased research, public education, and training of professionals to assist individuals and families on the autism spectrum. While we celebrate these accomplishments, much more needs to be done to help individuals reach their full potential.

The bipartisan bill introduced on February 7 will reauthorize the law for five years (through 2024); further expand the mission to include individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities across the lifespan; expand the interagency autism coordinating committee (IACC) to include agencies that provide services and supports to individuals in the community; and authorizes a report to research ways to increase their health and well-being.

The Autism Society of America, the nation’s largest and oldest grassroots organization representing people with autism across the lifespan, strongly supports this bill. Due to a sunset provision, the law must be reauthorized by September 30, 2019. We pledge our full support to move this bill quickly through Congress.

Thank you for all you continue to do on behalf of those with autism. Please contact the Autism Society of America (kmusheno@autism-society.org or 800-328-8476) for more information and assistance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Executive Director and CEO
Autism Society of America