July 30, 2021

The Honorable Mike Doyle
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Representatives Doyle and Smith,

We write today to thank you for your extraordinary efforts to increase appropriations that benefit the growing number of people on the autism spectrum.

Thanks to your persistent efforts, yesterday, the House of Representatives passed the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services funding bill (HR 4502) with historic increases for research, services and supports that will benefit people with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Notably, the bill includes your bipartisan amendment for an historic $10 million increase for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities’ autism-related activities. This funding will allow the CDC to expand its Autism Developmental Disability Monitoring (ADDM) Network to nine additional sites, as well as enhance six of the existing sites by following-up with 16-year-olds who were identified as autistic earlier in life, among other activities.

The bill also includes important increases for other Autism CARES Act efforts such as the Health Resources and Services Administration programs that develop evidence-based interventions and provide funds for interdisciplinary training of health care providers.

The bill also includes $15.5 billion for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B grants to states; a $2.6 billion increase over FY2020 funding levels; an increase of $250 million for early intervention services; and $100 million for preschool grants for children with disabilities.

These are all service needs that you helped bring to the attention of congressional appropriators through your leadership as co-chairs of the Bipartisan Autism Caucus. For this, we give you our heartfelt gratitude.

We will continue to advocate to ensure that these funding levels are maintained as the bill moves to the Senate for consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Banks
President and CEO