



Commemorating 40 Years
Of Disability Advocacy
1973-2013

November 12, 2013, 2013

Dear Senator,

The undersigned organizations request your support for an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) sponsored by Senator Patty Murray and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. This amendment would provide certain behavioral health treatment under the TRICARE program for children and adults with developmental disabilities. The Murray-Gillibrand amendment will go a long way to ensure that our military services members' children with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, get the health services they need to lead healthy and productive lives.

This strengthening of the TRICARE program through the reauthorizing of the NDAA would help the children of our military service members access behavioral health treatment, including applied behavior analysis, when prescribed by a physician. These services can truly change the lives of these children and their families, thus increasing their military readiness. Decades of research validate the effectiveness of these treatments for children with the most significant developmental disabilities.

The Murray-Gillibrand amendment provides an opportunity to ensure affordable and timely access to behavioral health treatment for children and adults with developmental disabilities under the TRICARE program. For additional information, please contact Mary Andrus at mandrus@easterseals.com or 202.347.3066.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

ACCSES
ADHD Aware
ADTA
AAIDD
American Association on Health and Disability
AUCD
Autism National Committee
Autism Speaks
Brain Injury Association of America
Easter Seals
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
Health & Disability Advocates
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network

Mental Health America
National Down Syndrome Society
NACDD
NASDSE
National Organization on Disability
National PTA
NCIL
Physician-Parent Caregivers
PVA
SSWAA
The Arc
VetsFirst