

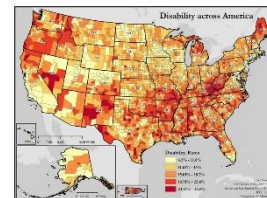
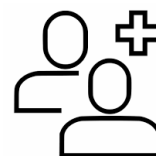
2019 Policy Updates for AUCD Autism SIG

Autism CARES Act of 2019:

The Autism CARES Act (P.L. 116-60) - which has expanded research and coordination, increased public awareness and surveillance, and expanded interdisciplinary health professional training, including Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Programs, to identify and support children and youth with Autism and their families – was signed into law on September 30, 2019, reauthorizing all programs including LENDs, Act Early Ambassadors, and Developmental Behavioral Pediatricians.

What to know about the new law: (summary of changes report attached)

- Authorizes programs through Fiscal Year 2024 at: (see report pg. 1)
 - National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and
 - Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC)
- Adds new members to the IACC (see report pg. 2)
- Prioritize grants to rural, tribal, and underserved areas (see report pg. 1)
- Requires a report to Congress on: (see report pg. 2-3)
 - factors associated with the health and well-being of ASD,
 - recommendations on establishing best practices for
 - interdisciplinary coordination,
 - improvements for health outcomes,
 - community-based behavioral support and interventions,
 - nutrition and recreational and social activities, and
 - personal safety



Action Steps:

- **Authorization is separate from appropriations** – Your education is still needed!
 - While CARES programs are authorized for 5 years, funds need to be appropriated to support the programs each year
 - **Share with members of Congress about your work and impact**
- Why does it matter? Congress needs to know the impact of CARES
 - Tell them your story – Share about projects, training cohorts, research findings, and community impact. Help build and maintain relationships with champions on the Hill.



Additional Pending “Hot Congressional Topics:”

- HCBS Infrastructure Act
- Keeping all Students Safe Act
- Disability Integration Act
- Higher Education Act



This document was prepared by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. For more information, visit www.aucd.org, or contact Policy Director Rylin Rodgers at rrodgers@aucd.org.

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- Transformation to Competitive Employment Act

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