

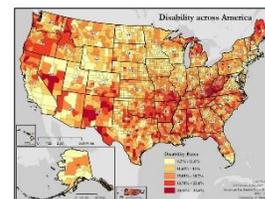
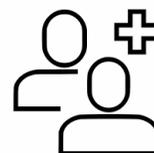
2019 Policy Updates for AUCD Mental Health SIG

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**
- Your members of Congress benefit from hearing about the impact of CARES
 - Tell them your stories on projects, training cohorts, research findings and impact to help build and maintain champions



HEADs UP Act:

The HEADs UP Act ([HR 2417](#)) of the Healthcare Extension and Accessibility for Developmentally Disabled and Underserved Population Act was introduced by Rep. Moulton (D-MA) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA) in April 2019. The purpose is to:

- expand and improve health care services by health centers and the National Health



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.

2019 Policy Updates for AUCD Mental Health SIG

Service Corps for individuals with a developmental disability, and

- direct HRSA to designate people with I/DD as a medically underserved population.

Gun Violence Legislative Updates:

Damaging rhetoric still includes: tracking people with mental health disabilities as threats, creating registries with mental health as an indicator and reopening institutions. Appropriations on the National Defense Authorization Act is being tracked so as not to have provisions relevant to the disability community.



Legislation introduced:

- Senator Cornyn (R-TX) introduced the *Restoring, Enhancing, Strengthening, and Promoting Our Nation's Safety Efforts (RESPONSE) Act* ([S 2690](#)). Concerns include **threat assessments** in schools, block grants for “**assisted outpatient treatment**,” and long-acting **injectable medication**.
- Several **threat assessment bills**:
 - Threat Assessment, Prevention and Safety Act ([HR 838](#); [S 265](#))
 - The EAGLES Act ([S 455](#); [HR 3714](#))
 - The STANDUP Act, Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2019, ([S 2492](#))
- School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act ([HR 4301](#)) was marked up in House Ed & Labor in September. It requires reporting about details of school shootings.

Legislation pending/expected:

- Senators Blumenthal (D-CT) and Graham (R-SC) are working on an **extreme risk protection order bill** that has still not been introduced.

Action Step:

- Included are sample tweets and resources that have been gathered by the disability community in response to the need for advocacy.

Additional Pending “Hot Congressional Topics:”

- HCBS Infrastructure Act
- Keeping all Students Safe Act
- Disability Integration Act
- Higher Education Act
- Transformation to Competitive Employment 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.