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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

**2007-08**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Insurance  
(AC-In)**

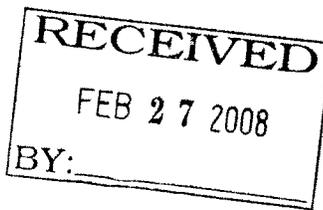
**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                      (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

What do other states mandate.  
Perhaps another office has this  
So you don't re-invent the wheel.



Representative Frank Lasee

Room 105 West  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Lasee:

Legislation is pending in the State Senate and Assembly (SB 178/AB 417) that requires group insurance policies to cover treatment for those diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. I am writing to ask for your support for this important legislation.

Our three year old son Luke has been diagnosed with Autism in the last month. We are currently applying for aid/waiver so our son can be treated utilizing the highly recommended in-home treatment. Obviously as you are aware our health insurance does not cover this and the waiver list has grown to 2-years before any financial assistance can be utilized. Our options are to wait the two years during the recognized "best" time to have him treated or mortgage our financial future to allow our son to grow and develop as any child without the disease. We have chosen to self-pay during these two years on the waiting list- risking our financial well being for the of our child. That is a cost of approximately \$80,000 for the next two years.

I'm sure you are aware that this issue will continue to come to the forefront in Wisconsin. We have found that the following are items to be cognizant of:

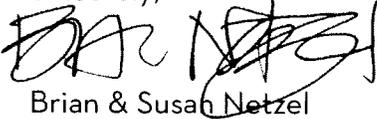
- A recently released CDC report indicates the rate of Autism is dramatically increasing, and currently 1 in 150 children are impacted by this disorder.
- There are treatments available to help address this urgent public health concern. For example, research shows that intensive in-home early intervention dramatically increases the rate of normalcy among children with Autism.
- Unfortunately, early intervention and other treatments are not reaching all of those in need. There are currently nearly 300 Wisconsin children with autism on the waiting list to receive Autism treatment services through the state waiver program. There are many more kids who have been recently diagnosed and have not yet qualified to be on the waiting list.
- As previously mentioned, research shows that providing Autism treatment at an early age achieves a higher success rate and dramatically reduces the need for special education services and long-term care.

- In the long run, treatment saves the state a significant amount of money. If these services were covered by insurance policies, as they are in eighteen other states such as Kentucky and Indiana, more children with autism would be receiving the treatment necessary to help them function.
- Families impacted with autism should receive the same treatment by the insurance industry that other medical conditions enjoy.

Please support SB 178 and AB 417, the autism insurance proposal, so that more children can receive the treatment they need, and have the chance to achieve normalcy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian & Susan Netzel  
1144 Swan Road  
De Pere, WI 54115