

ASA Advocacy Update—Keep the Emails Flowing

Ask Congress to Fund Autism Research Contact Your Congress Members to Sign Onto Appropriations Bills

It's September. School's back in session, and so is the U.S. Congress. The House and the Senate both returned last week and several key autism issues are on the agenda.

Each year, the Congress must pass a series of bills that fund the federal government. These bills, also known as appropriations, outline how much funding will be directed for all government programs, including autism research, education, and services. The House and Senate will be finalizing these bills in the coming weeks.

This year, the House included \$7.5 million for autism-related research in the funding bill for the Department of Defense. This funding would provide for early diagnosis and treatment for military families, and would also support research to identify the causes of autism and enhance therapies.

The Coalition for Autism Research and Education (CARE), led by Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) is circulating a letter to encourage appropriators to provide this \$7.5 million for an innovative research program at the Department of Defense. Senator DeWine (R-OH) and Senator Clinton (D-NY) are circulating a similar letter in the Senate.

Please contact your Representative and Senators and urge them to sign onto these important letters. You can start this by copying & pasting the link below

<https://secure2.convio.net/asa/site/Advocacy?JServSessionIdr006=xzv8gtvti3.app25a&cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=147>