



Public Law No: 118-180 (12/23/2024)

Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support Act of 2024 or the Autism CARES Act of 2024

Passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities, The Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support (CARES) Act of 2024 was signed into law on December 23, 2024.

The Autism CARES Act reauthorizes and expands the provisions of previous iterations of this legislation, providing authority for research, services, prevalence tracking and other activities through September 2029.

In comparison to the law it succeeds, the 2024 version of the CARES Act:

- 1.** Increases the authorization of appropriations to carry out the Act to approximately \$2 billion, including over \$1.5 billion for medical research.
- 2. Requires inclusivity in medical research on autism, including profound autism,** requiring research that “reflects the entire population of individuals with autism spectrum disorder, including those individuals with co-occurring conditions, and the full range of needs for supports and services, including such supports and services to ensure the safety, and promote the well-being, of such individuals.”
- 3.** Applies the same standard of inclusivity to guidance from the Director of NIH to the Autism Centers of Excellence on their strategies for engagement with autism advocates to inform the activities of the Centers, and ...
- 4.** Applies the same standard of inclusivity to the report required by Congress from the Secretary of HHS on activities related to autism.

