

On behalf of the Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder, we are writing to express our strong support for the proposed legislation that requires public schools and charter schools to develop policies governing the provision of medically necessary treatment and services for pupils with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) who have individualized education programs (IEPs). This legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring that students with ASD receive the comprehensive support they need to thrive in an educational setting.

The bill's requirements for school districts and charter schools to establish clear policies regarding the involvement of private instructional personnel are essential for fostering collaboration between educational staff and outside professionals. By facilitating communication and cooperation, we can ensure that students with ASD receive consistent and effective treatment that aligns with their educational goals. This collaboration is vital for addressing the unique challenges faced by these students and for promoting their overall development.

Furthermore, the bill mandates that schools provide notice to parents or legal guardians regarding their rights, which is a critical component of empowering families. Parents play an essential role in advocating for their children's needs, and by ensuring they are informed of their rights, we can help them navigate the complexities of the educational system more effectively.

The prohibition against charging fees for the provision of medically necessary services is another important aspect of this legislation. Families of children with ASD often face significant financial burdens, and ensuring that they have access to necessary services without additional costs is a vital step toward equity in education.

Additionally, the requirement for background checks for private instructional personnel who work with students with ASD is a necessary safeguard to ensure the safety and well-being of our children. This measure will help maintain a secure environment for students while also ensuring that qualified professionals are providing the necessary support.

By aligning this legislation with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and existing Nevada statutes, we reinforce our commitment to providing a high standard of education and support for students with disabilities. This comprehensive approach will help ensure that students with ASD receive the individualized attention and resources they need to succeed academically and socially.

In conclusion, we urge you to support this important legislation. By establishing clear policies and protocols for the treatment and services of pupils with autism spectrum disorders, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of these students and their families. Thank you for your attention to this vital issue.