



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

July 31 2007

Congressman Mike Doyle
401 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Doyle,

On behalf of Autism Speaks, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in support of increasing the number of teaching professionals with experience working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. We would like to offer our formal endorsement of H.R. 2390, the Teacher Education for Autistic Children Act of 2007.

Autism Speaks is concerned with all aspects of autism and supports a vigorous and comprehensive legislative agenda involving education and services, in addition to research and awareness. As you know, the increasing number of children diagnosed with autism (1 in 150 children according to the CDC) has resulted in a nationwide shortage of educators with training in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Like you, we believe that the addition of a refundable tax credit will help attract future educators to become teachers and paraprofessionals for autistic students. We also believe that those who pursue the noble career of teaching, especially for children with special needs, should be rewarded for their pursuit.

We commend you and Congressman Chris Smith for crafting a solution to the growing shortfall in teachers with experience in autism spectrum disorders. Thank you again for your continued leadership on this and all autism-related issues.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Emken
Vice President, Government Relations
Autism Speaks