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MICHIGAN AUTISM INSURANCE REFORM GROUP HAILS STATEMENT OF SUPPORT BY GOVERNOR SNYDER
-- Support of Senate Bills 414 and 415 Seen as Major Step Forward –

(Lansing, MI)…..The Michigan Autism Insurance Reform Coalition (MAIRC) today acknowledged Governor Rick Snyder for his strong statement of support for legislation now in the Michigan Senate which will reform state insurance law to require coverage for autism-related services for children on the autism disorder spectrum. The coalition of advocates for change in Michigan insurance law have worked closely with a bi-partisan group of legislators for years in an attempt to provide much-needed coverage and believe that momentum is building to pass this important package of bills.

Senate bill 414 introduced by Senator Mike Green (R-Mayville) and Senate bill 415 sponsored by Senator Tupac Hunter (D-Detroit) would require health insurance companies doing business in the State of Michigan to provide coverage of behavioral health treatments, such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), an evidence-based autism therapy. Twenty-seven other states across America have enacted autism insurance reform laws to date, and New York and California legislatures this summer passed reform bills that await signature by their governors.

“We greatly appreciate Governor Snyder’s bold leadership on this issue of life-altering significance to children across Michigan,” said Paul Welday, Director of MAIRC. “He clearly has been listening to the thousands of Michigan families who recognize the tremendous need for reform in Michigan insurance law. Access to treatment is essential to quality of life, independence and minimizing the need for long term care. This legislation will give these children hope.”
“These two bills endorsed today by Governor Snyder provide critical medical treatment and will save taxpayers $14 billion over the lives of those children who benefit from access to care,” Welday continued.

“Passage of this legislation will help create a treatment infrastructure in Michigan that does not exist today. Having the Governor join with Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville and our Lt. Governor in supporting Autism Insurance reform is a positive step. Michigan families should call on the state legislature to heed the plea of our state leaders to take up these two bills immediately.”

The Michigan Autism Insurance Reform Coalition is a broad-based grassroots group made up of citizen activists and organizations across Michigan. The coalition includes parent and/or professional representation from groups across the state such as Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM); Autism Insurance of Michigan (AIM); Autism Resource Network; Beaumont Health System; Behavior Analysts Association of Michigan (BAAM); Central Michigan University; Children’s Hospital of MI (DMC); Detroit Institute for Children; DTE Energy; Eastern Michigan University Autism Center; Grand Valley State University; HOPE Lenawee; Hope Network; Jack’s Place; Judson Center; Michigan State University Autism Center; Mid-Michigan Autism Association; Oakwood Center for Exceptional Children; Oakland University; Residential Options, Inc; Traverse City Autism Resource Network; Wayne State University; and Western Michigan University. In addition, Autism Speaks, a national organization involved with the coalition efforts endorsed Senate bills 414 and 415 earlier this year.

Senate bills 414 and 415 are currently assigned to the Michigan Senate Health Policy Committee and are awaiting hearings.