

2025 Autism Advocacy Day

Several organizations from across Virginia are proud to come together for our annual Autism Advocacy Day. Thank you for your support of our local autism community!



2025 Legislative Priorities

Establish Autism Commission

SB1232 - Sen. Aird

HB1772 - Del. Hope

Provides for the Autism Advisory Council to be reconstituted as a permanent staffed agency. A dedicated Autism Commission would ensure gaps are identified and addressed, particularly in areas of education, healthcare, employment, housing, and independent living supports.

Training for Education and Medical Professionals

SB1293 - Sen. Stanley

Directs school employees and medical professionals to participate in high-quality professional development to better understand autistic traits, communicate with ASD individuals, and understand how to use de-escalation strategies.

Autism Data Dashboard

HB2285 - Del. Coyner

Creates an autism data dashboard to collect and monitor data that will empower policy-makers to make informed, evidence-based decisions to improve services, identify gaps in resources, and ensure equitable access to support for individuals and families in Virginia.

Driver Communication: Blue Envelope Program

SB1265 - Sen. DeSteph

HB2501 - Del. Rasoul

Ensures individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities can effectively communicate their needs to law enforcement officers during traffic encounters.

Protect Voting Rights

SB765 - Sen. Favola

HB2746 - Del. Tran

Ensures that a person's right to vote is not automatically removed when they have a guardian.

In-Patient Hospital Support

HB2160 - Del. Carr

Provides for compensation for direct support professionals to support DD Waiver recipients during acute care hospital stays.

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Support Agenda, Continued...

AAC Accommodations & Training

SB1034 - Sen. Pekarsky

HB2219 - Del. Tran

Requires IEP documentation and staff training to support students who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), ensuring students' communication access needs are accommodated.

Medicaid Coverage for SSDI Recipients

HB1762 - Del. Morefield

Expand Medicaid coverage to SSDI recipients not yet eligible for Medicare, regardless of income or assets.

Support for Live-In Caregivers

SB 1480 - Sen. Suetterlein

Item 288 #42h - Sickles; #288 #11s - Locke

Removes the 16-hour daily cap for live-in consumer-directed services employees.

Addressing Barriers to Employment

HB 1804 - Del. Cohen

288 #27h, #28h, #29h, #30h - Del. Coyner

Expands access to Medicaid Works by raising income limits and enhancing services that support sustained employment and ongoing service needs.

We Support Several Funding Requests, Including:

Infrastructure Development:

Item 297 #3s (Deeds), 297 #5h (Sickles)

VACSB's proposal to fund the recruitment and onboarding of additional support coordinators to meet the needs of individuals receiving new waiver slots.

Funding for State Rental Assistance Program:

Item 297 #3h (Willett), 297 #2s (Boysko)

Virginia Housing Alliance's proposal to increase funding for the State Rental Assistance Program.

Develop Plan for Core Services:

Item 292 #8s (Boysko), 292 #5h (Sickles)

The Arc of Virginia's proposal to develop a comprehensive plan for core services that addresses the needs of individuals with essential services.

Provider Development Incubator:

Item 296 #5s (Boysko), 297 #7h (Sickles)

An incubator that would help expand capacity to meet market demand for community-based services.

Increase Medicaid and CHIP Dental Rates

Item 288 #33h (McQuinn)

Support for Families of Those with Extraordinary Care Needs:

Item 288 #48h (Shin)

Parents of minors can be paid caregivers, with funding for respite to ensure quality care and prevent burnout.

Increase Funding for I/DD Waiver Services:

Item 288 #46s (Deeds), 288 #43h (Sickles)

vaACCSES' proposal to increase funding for I/DD waiver services rates.