

**Medicaid Funding for IBI/ABA for Children with Autism
Messages for Emails or Letters to Texas Legislators**

- Tell who you are, what you do, and why you are writing
- Explain the need for Medicaid children in Texas to get IBI/ABA services for autism
- This funding is in the Health and Human Services (HHSC) Exceptional Item #45
- Encourage legislators to include this funding in the budget

Include one or two of the points below, if they fit your story:

- In Texas, children with autism who have commercial insurance can receive ABA services, Medicaid children should receive the same.
- The CDC indicates that Autism affects 1 in 59 children
- In 2014, CMS indicated that all Medicaid state plans must cover medically necessary treatment, including ABA, for children with an Autism diagnosis.
- 41 other states have Medicaid for children with autism
- Texas' Children's Autism program only serves children in certain geographic areas of the state
- Texas' Children's Autism Program is focused intervention only, not comprehensive
- Texas' Children's Autism Program only serves 1150 children statewide per year
- Pediatricians screen for autism at 18 and 24 months of age in order for children to receive services at an early age
- Studies indicate that with 2-3 years intensive early interventions, 50% of children with autism will enter kindergarten indistinguishable from their peers, some losing the diagnosis entirely
- Texas' Medicaid children deserve these medically necessary services so they can become productive, contributing citizens in this state.

- The 85th Legislature licensed Board Certified Behavior Analysts to protect vulnerable Texans by ensuring that only appropriately trained individuals provide ABA services.

Provide your name, address and phone number on your letter or email in case legislators want to contact you with further questions.