



HEALTH EQUITY

Healthcare is a human right, but it can be hard for people with IDD and autism to get the care that they deserve. There is a need for more inclusive healthcare, including access to medical providers and insurance coverage.

HEALTHCARE STANDARDS (H242/S149)

- This bill will provide medical practitioners with training opportunities to improve the care and treatment of patients with IDD and autism.
- The bill also aims to limit “emergency department boarding,” which is when individuals get stuck in the ER because they can’t get other care.

ABA COVERAGE–MASSHEALTH (H1351/S871)

- This bill will make it mandatory for MassHealth insurance to cover essential treatments, such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy for people over the age of 21.
- It will also make it easier to obtain augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) coverage.

PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTHCARE (H1360/S869)

- This bill aims to improve the healthcare system by preventing discrimination against people with disabilities.
- It will ensure that in any future public health crises, such as another pandemic, people with disabilities will be treated fairly and equally, and not be de-prioritized.

TOMMY’S LAW (H282/S168)

- This bill will require that when a person is discharged from a medical facility, the discharge plan has to be reviewed by the nursing staff of the individual’s residential program.
- The goal is to make sure that their care instructions are understood and followed carefully. It also enhances the responsibility of staff in monitoring medical equipment.