

**ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
ON
AUTISM**

Senator Uvalde Lindsey
Co-Chair

Representative Henry Wilkins, IV
Co-Chair

**TO: Senator Bill Sample, Co-Chair, Arkansas Legislative Council
Representative John Edwards, Co-Chair, Arkansas Legislative Council**

**FROM: Senator Uvalde Lindsey and Representative Henry "Hank" Wilkins
Co-Chairs, Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism**

RE: REPORT OF THE AUTISM TASK FORCE

DATE: September 20, 2013

Pursuant to the provisions of Act 1272 of 2009, we are submitting the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism report for your review.

The Task Force is pleased to report that, through diligent efforts during the 89th General Assembly, legislation to implement Medicaid expansion private option was accomplished during this reporting period. Such progression will allow families with developmentally disabled children to have insurance.

Success was achieved on a second priority. The implementation of the Community First Choice Option allows families to easily and quickly receive the therapeutic services they need by eliminating the Medicaid Waiver's waiting list without eliminating services.

The legislative priorities to be presented to the 90th General Assembly are as follows:

- Adopt federal laws and regulations relating to the use of restraints and seclusion for all students attending public schools in the state
- Create a statewide campaign using web-based entities to disseminate information regarding developmental disability services to families across the state
- Combine web-based entities and create a campaign to make certain bilingual Pediatricians and educators are knowledgeable about communication links
- Ensure that equitable services are provided to minorities and girls across the state
- Continue standardization of training opportunities

We hope you will find this information useful. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us, if you desire additional information.