



October 9, 2017

**Re: In Support of HB 332; Regards anatomical gifts, transplants, and discrimination**

Chair Huffman, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Health Committee,

Autism Speaks submits this testimony in support of House Bill 332, which would ensure that individuals with disabilities will not be banned from an organ transplant waitlist solely based on their disability.

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. We empower people with autism and their families with resources, online tools and information covering the life span.

Reports of individuals with disabilities, including autism, being denied access to life-saving organ transplants on the basis of their disability are very troubling.<sup>1</sup> In response, several states *e.g.*, California, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Oregon have enacted laws that prohibit this type of discrimination. While incidents of such discrimination occurring in Ohio may be uncommon, this legal protection should be in place to prevent the possibility of transplantation discrimination in the future. Please support passage of HB 332.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup> Bodey, Sunshine. "Opinion | My Son Has Autism. Discrimination Almost Cost Him His Life." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 30 Aug. 2017, [www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/my-son-has-autism-discrimination-almost-cost-him-his-life/2017/08/30/b899dc58-88e8-11e7-961d-2f373b3977ee\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.fbfaeeae383e](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/my-son-has-autism-discrimination-almost-cost-him-his-life/2017/08/30/b899dc58-88e8-11e7-961d-2f373b3977ee_story.html?utm_term=.fbfaeeae383e).