**You can make a difference!!!**

Thank you for helping us in our letter campaign! There are ways some key officials in SC can help improve autism insurance coverage and Medicaid reimbursement rates without having to go through the legislative process. But, our officials need to hear from us that we need their help!!

**Here’s how you can help:**

1. Use one of the letter templates below. Customize it with your story.
2. Address a letter to Governor McMaster, Director Josh Baker and Director Ray Farmer (see below).
3. Mail or email your letter every other week from now until the end of August. (We may need to do more, but stay tuned to Remind for updates on our progress!!)
4. We will do the rest! Our team is actively requesting meetings with all 3 offices, and your letters will bring their attention to the need. This will help us get the meetings we need to ask for their help, and we will handle all of the technical details!

The officials who have the power to help us:

**Governor Henry McMaster**

**Mail:**
The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

**Email:**
[Click to email Governor McMaster](https://iqconnect.lmhostediq.com/iqextranet/EForm.aspx?__cid=FSL_SC_GOV&__fid=100000)

**Phone:**
803.734.2100

**Fax:**
803.734.5167

**SC Department of Health & Human Services**

**Director Josh Baker**

SCDHHS P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Office of the Director
(803) 898-2580

**SC Department of Insurance**

**Commissioner Ray Farmer**

**Mailing Address**
Post Office Box 100105
Columbia, SC 29202

**Contact Details**
Ph: 803-737-6160
Fx: 803-737-6231

Email

Governor McMaster/Director Baker/Commissioner Farmer:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We joined the autism community when [personal story of relative’s/close friend’s diagnosis]. [Summary of struggle to obtain treatment and/or the luck/blessing of being the few to get treatment.]

The autism community in South Carolina is in desperate need of your help. The provider network has been all but destroyed by unsustainably low Medicaid reimbursement rates and a lack of a client base with insurance coverage. Children with autism are being neglected in their earliest years and then sent to poorly equipped public schools where they continue to flounder until they become dependent adults with even fewer resources. South Carolina can and must do better.

There are proven methods (autism therapies) by which individuals with autism can reach their fullest potential. You have the power to help ensure access to autism therapy. I implore you to take action for the benefit of these individuals, their families, and all citizens of South Carolina.

Thank you/Regards/Best,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We joined the autism community when [personal story of relative’s/close friend’s diagnosis]. [Summation of struggle to obtain treatment and/or the luck/blessing of being the few to get treatment.]

The status quo in South Carolina in regard to autism simply cannot continue. More treatment providers close every year and families are forced to watch helplessly as the opportunity to help their loved one slips away. Individuals and families are not the only ones to suffer. All of South Carolina loses when individuals with autism lack access to life-changing treatment. Early intervention is proven to decrease the level of dependency and long-term needs.

You have the power to make a difference. Please turn the tide in South Carolina and help all individuals with autism in this State reach their fullest potential.

We need your help to improve access to health insurance coverage and increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for autism therapy! We know you have the power to help us – please do so, before more of our children grow up without the help they so desperately need!

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We joined the autism community when [personal story of relative’s/close friend’s diagnosis]. [Summation of struggle to obtain treatment and/or the luck/blessing of being the few to get treatment.]

There are few things more painful than knowing precisely how to change a loved one’s life for the better but having no ability to do so. You have the power to remove autism families from this nightmare in South Carolina. Please take action that will grow the provider network and provide access to medically prescribed, life-changing treatment.

We need you to improve health insurance coverage and increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for autism therapy! Please help us!!