

Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Autism Society of America, Autism Speaks and more stand united in calling for evidence-based research and investments in diverse supports for the Autism community.

April 17, 2025, Rockville, MD – As national organizations dedicated to advancing the well-being of Autistic individuals, the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Autism Society of America, Autism Speaks, The Arc of the United States, Autistic Women and Non-Binary Network, Autistic People of Color Fund and partners across the disability and public health sectors **stand united in our call for science-based decision-making and increased investment in the research, programs and services the Autism community needs to live fully.**

While our organizations reflect a broad range of perspectives and experiences, we are aligned in the following principles:

- **Vaccines Do Not Cause Autism.** Decades of scientific research confirm there is no causal link. Public health messaging must be grounded in science and protect all communities.
- **Autistic Individuals Deserve Respect and Support.** Public dialogue and policy must reflect the inherent value, rights, and diverse needs of Autistic people.
- **Evidence-Based Policy Is Essential.** We call on policymakers to work in collaboration with Autistic individuals, families, researchers, clinicians, and disability organizations to ensure policy is grounded in science and responsive to community needs.

We are deeply concerned by growing public rhetoric and policy decisions that challenge these shared principles. Claims that Autism is “preventable” is not supported by scientific consensus and perpetuate stigma. Language framing Autism as a “chronic disease,” a “childhood disease” or “epidemic” distorts public understanding and undermines respect for Autistic people.

At the same time, federal proposals to reduce funding for programs like Medicaid, the Department of Education, and the Administration for Community Living threaten the very services that Autistic individuals and their families rely on. Research must be guided by credentialed experts and inclusive of the complexity and diversity of the lived experiences of the Autism community—not redirected by misinformation or ideology. As leaders in the fields of Autism and public health, we are committed to contributing meaningfully to the ongoing dialogue and initiatives led by HHS.

We urge public leaders, institutions, and media to uphold scientific integrity and work together to strengthen—not weaken—the infrastructure of support for the entire Autism community.

Signed By:

Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Colin Killick, Executive Director

[Autism Society of America](#), Christopher Banks, President and CEO

[Autism Speaks](#), Keith Wargo, President and CEO

[The Arc of the United States](#), Katy Neas, Chief Executive Officer

[Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network](#), Sharon daVanport, Executive Director

[Autistic People of Color Fund](#), Ly Xinzhen Zhāngsūn Brown, Founding Executive Director

[Autism Empowerment](#), Karen Krejcha, Co-Founder, Executive Director

[Dan Marino Foundation](#), Mary Partin, CEO

Full List of Endorsing Organizations (Rolling Sign On):

[American Association of People with Disabilities](#)

[Association of University Centers on Disabilities](#)

[National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities](#)

[TASH](#)

[Allies for Independence](#)

[Institute for Exceptional Care](#)

[Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund \(DREDF\)](#)

[American Association on Health and Disability](#)

[Lakeshore Foundation](#)

[National Health Law Program](#)

[Tourette Association of America](#)

[Family Voices National](#)

[National Down Syndrome Congress](#)

[Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#)

[American Network of Community Options and Resources \(ANCOR\)](#)

[Epilepsy Foundation](#)

[The Center for Learner Equity](#)

[Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered](#)

[Caring Across Generations](#)

[SPAN Parent Advocacy Network \(SPAN\)](#)

[National Disability Rights Network](#)

[American Music Therapy Association](#)

[Access Ready Inc](#)

[Mission Alpha Advocacy](#)

[Center for Public Representation](#)