

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2014

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We write to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) review and report on the efficacy of our federal autism funding allocation. We hope to learn if the significant but relatively recent strides in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) research and treatment are being fully considered.

We are pleased that the GAO acknowledged in its November 2013 report that federal autism efforts can be improved. While the report makes clear that federal autism activities can be more efficient, a critical question remains unaddressed: **do existing federal funding priorities appropriately consider the recent and significant advances in scientific research relating to autism?**


As you know, ASD affects millions of Americans. Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control reported that 1 in 68 children were identified with ASD - a figure roughly 30% higher than the estimate for 2008, and 60% higher than the estimate for 2006. New and developing evidence-based research shows that early diagnosis and intervention can dramatically improve the quality of life for children and families affected by ASD, and we believe that further savings and greater outcomes can be realized by reevaluating federal funding priorities.

In light of this new data, we feel it is critical that federal programs and initiatives be designed to optimally benefit families affected by autism, with the most current science and technology available. Thank you for your attention to this request.

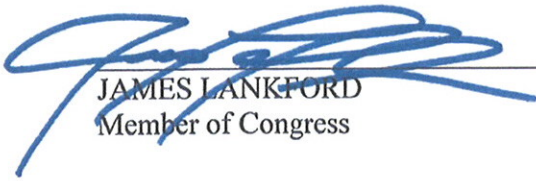
Sincerely,



ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress



JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



JAMES LANKFORD
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



MIKE ROGERS
Member of Congress



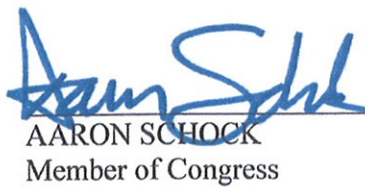
KATHERINE CLARK
Member of Congress



JACK KINGSTON
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ZOE LOFGREN
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AARON SCHOCK
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DAVID SCOTT
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