**AUTISM CARES ACT**

Plain Language Talking Points

***NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION***

**What is the problem?**

* Autism is a condition that makes it hard for some people to understand social signals, form relationships, handle loud noises. Those with autism might also face challenges with learning, health, and emotional well-being. Some individuals with autism need extra help to communicate.
* Lately, more people are being recognized as having autism, which means we need more money from the government to help support and provide services for them. The Autism CARES Act is a law that keeps track of how many people are diagnosed with autism and ensures they get the help they need.
* The Autism CARES Act was first made into law in 2006. It has done a lot of good things like educating the public about autism, training healthcare workers, and improving our understanding of how to support people with autism.
* If the law isn't renewed by September 30, 2024, all these helpful activities will have to stop.

**What Should Congress Do?**

* **Renew the Law**: It's important that Congress makes sure the Autism CARES Act continues beyond September 30, 2024. Increase funding and improve services.