

# AUTISM CARE DEMONSTRATION ADVOCACY

---

- According to the most recent estimates from the CDC, autism affects 1 in every 36 children.
- Timely access to evidence-based services, including applied behavior analysis, can change the trajectory of the life of a child with autism.
- Unfortunately, military families struggle to access basic care due to ongoing challenges with the Autism Care Demonstration (ACD).
- The number of providers who are able to effectively navigate the complexities of the ACD is decreasing at a dramatic pace.

We appreciate the progress and collaboration achieved in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2023 and the opportunity for ongoing dialogue with the Defense Health Agency. We are also grateful that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have begun the independent analysis authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

To address ongoing concerns related to cost and clinical efficacy, we respectfully request your consideration and leadership regarding the TRICARE Autism Care Demonstration (ACD) program, which at a minimum should be required to:

- In accordance with generally accepted standards of care, implement the American Medical Association's CPT codes for applied behavior analysis.
- Conform with clinical practice guidelines for applied behavior recognized as generally accepted standards of care.

The Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP), a nonprofit trade association, welcomes the opportunity to continue this important discussion.

Please reach out to Judith Ursitti, CPA, Vice President of Government Affairs,  
at [jursitti@casproviders.org](mailto:jursitti@casproviders.org).