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AUTISM REAUTHORIZATION BILL AWAITS PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

September 27, 2011 by cpehrson

Last night, the United States Senate passed the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act (CARA) as one of its last acts before going on recess. It is now awaiting President Obama’s signature.

Extending this law allows the autism research, education, and early identification efforts begun in 2006 to continue, reauthorizing $693 million for the next three years, something that advocates feared might be gone by the end of next week.

"Reauthorizing the Combating Autism Act is a crucial step towards advancing our knowledge on autism. We are now able to ensure research programs continue finding breakthroughs in diagnosis and treatment, and that training and intervention programs continue providing families the tools they need to better understand and manage this increasingly prevalent affliction," U.S. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) said.

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) network members worked alongside legislators, family members, advocates, and autism and disability organizations to inform Congress about the importance of continuing these important autism-related activities. Their hard work helped make this reauthorization possible.

Several CPD projects focus on autism research, training, diagnosis, and intervention, including the ABC early intervention classroom, the ASSERT preschool classroom, Early Markers for Autism Biomedical research project, and the ASD Interdisciplinary Clinic.

The CPD is part of the AUCD’s national network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs).