

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Autism Society of Pittsburgh.

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Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Every cent raised is spent in our region to help improve the lives of those among us with autism and their families.

#AUT2KNOW

Mystifying...

The Autism Society of Pittsburgh most emphatically supports the position expressed by Scott Badesch, President of Autism Society of America, on the illogical conclusion of the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force that universal early screening of infants for autism is not recommended.

Further, how the American Academy of Pediatrics could support this position is equally mystifying. Any parent of a child with autism, any family living with autism, will attest to the fact that the earlier autism symptoms are detected the more effective are interventions in reducing their disabling effects.

Mandatory autism screening will ensure that many fewer of those at risk will "slip through the cracks" and miss out on necessary early intervention. In addition, it will instantly beget, among all pediatricians and the full range of medical professionals, increased awareness of the numerous signs of this complex disorder. It also will spur ongoing research into other environmental and clinical factors that might trigger its onset.

Just as one might question any research findings based on a small sampling, it is difficult to accept - from a single panel of medical doctors -- a judgment with such sweeping implications.

Like so many diktats from non-elected regulators, this one by a "preventive" panel, begs the question as to who and what they are preventing - those at risk from the autism disability? Or the inconvenience of some in pharmacology, medicine and insurance industries being made to learn more about and serve them better?

What you can do...

The USPSTF 16-member physician panel was authorized by Congress and overseen by a division of the Department of Health and Human Services. It is unlikely that our *elected* Congressional Senators and Representatives understand its implications. Since those of us living and dealing with autism have no recourse with nameless non-elected regulators, it is urged that all those affected by autism - families, providers, autism advocacy and interest groups - write, email or phone their *elected* Congressional Senators and Representatives, and insist that they overrule and *reverse* this irrational decision.

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION.

...AUT2KNOW

NEWS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

Timely news on events and issues affecting those living with autism in the Greater Pittsburgh area and Pennsylvania.

New for March:

- **Spotlight on Autism Society of Pittsburgh's Judicial Training Program**
 - **S.P.E.A.K. Application Deadline Fast Approaching**
 - **2016 Red CARpet Premiere was a Huge Success**
 - **Attend Autism "Graduate School"**
 - **Adult Social Skills Research Group Coming to Pitt**
- ...and more!*

[Click here to view our recent articles](#)



EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

We offer a range of services, including workshops and support groups, training and educational programs, fundraising events, and community awareness building activities. We stay up-to-date on relevant happenings throughout our local autism community.

[Click here to view our calendar.](#)



AUTISM RESOURCES

We know that parenting a child with autism comes with many challenges and a solid support system is essential. We have highlighted below some places to contact when faced with crisis situations or for information and referral services, and have also provided a comprehensive list of suggested resources in our region.

Resolve Crisis Network

Crisis intervention services through UPMC available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to Allegheny County residents at no cost. Call 1-888-796-8226 or 1-888-7-YOU-CAN

IRES (Information, Referral, and Emergency Services)

Emergency assistance available from Allegheny County 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 412-350-4457 or 911, TTY 412-350-3467.

Autism Society of Pittsburgh

Advocacy, information and referral, programs and services. Visit www.autismsocietypgh.org

AutismResources.com

The "Autism Friendly guide to Pennsylvania" allowing families and individuals living with autism to easily look for and recommend a range of autism services throughout the state.

Autism Center of Pittsburgh

Specialty autism clinic meeting the needs of children with autism and their families, offering evaluations, social skills groups, support groups, and more.

[Click here to download our complete resource list](#)



WAYS TO HELP

Our programs and services would not exist without the help of the caring individuals, businesses, and volunteers that support us. Contributions of any size are our lifeblood - vital to our existence and effectiveness - providing the means for us to help children with autism, their families, and professionals who work with them.



Donate

Please consider visiting [our donations page](#) today to make a contribution through PayPal or learn about other ways to donate.

Volunteer

From time to time we need caring volunteers to help with our programs and fundraising events. If interested, please complete [our contact form](#) and we will be in touch when a volunteer opportunity arises that meets your interests and availability.



Give us a call today!
412-856-7223

Visit www.autismsocietypgh.org or call us for more information and resources.

