



ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
ADVOCATES FOR FAMILIES
 INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE
guiding families to good health

2919 Confederate Ave 434.528.9075 ph
 Lynchburg, VA 24501 434.528.9078 fx
www.rimlandcenter.com

April 17, 2018

Elizabeth Mumper, M.D., FAAP, IFMCP

To the Colorado Legislature, House Health, Insurance, Environment Committee,
Attention: Chairwoman Rep. Joann Ginal;
 and the Senate Health & Human Services Committee,
Attention: Chairman Sen. Jim Smallwood

Regarding: CO HB 18-1223, Testimony in Support of Declare Autism Epidemic in Colorado

As a board-certified pediatrician from Lynchburg, Virginia who has been in practice for 38 years, I have watch the prevalence of autism rise from 1 in 5000 children to about 1 in 50 now (with a disturbing study reporting the rate of autism in the U.S. as high as 1 in 36 children in a recent 2017 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) of parents).

Recently I developed a pediatric conference for the Institute for Functional Medicine. Our research showed that nearly 50% of children now have at least one chronic disease. I am particularly concerned about increasing diagnoses of immune dysregulation (rising rates of asthma, eczema and food allergies), autoimmunity (more cases of antibodies directed against the body which affect the thyroid gland, gut and vital organs) and neurodevelopmental problems (including autism and ADHD).

In response to the epidemic of behavioral problems in my community, I established Advocates for Children in 2000 to help children who were falling through the cracks in the traditional medical system. In 2006, I started Advocates for Families to help children with neurodevelopmental problems like autism. We incorporate detailed histories with lifestyle interventions including nutrition, sleep hygiene, stress management and promoting nurturing relationships.

Ask experienced teachers and they will tell you the numbers are real. Careful published scientific research has shown that the epidemic of autism cannot be attributed to overdiagnosis or diagnostic substitution. Thank you for taking steps to label autism as epidemic in Colorado.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mumper, MD, FAAP, IFMCP