

## Increasing Insurance Opportunities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

### What is needed to improve access to needed treatment?

Families across Louisiana are being denied or restricted from accessing the needed treatment for their child with a disability to improve their quality of life, and their ability to gain independence. A change to the current law would greatly increase access and lead to better outcomes for **ALL** individuals with developmental disabilities across Louisiana.

- Inclusion of other disabilities and disorders, and not just Autism
  - Medicaid currently allows the coverage of ABA to individuals without an Autism diagnosis

### What does Louisiana currently offer?

In 2008, Representative Foil passed monumental legislation (Act 208) requiring the coverage of medical treatment (ABA) for children with Autism. This legislation was life changing for families across Louisiana, who prior to this law were not only drowning in medical debt, but also unable to get the therapy their child needed.

### How would this benefit Louisiana and families?

Children with disabilities **other** than Autism could have their treatments covered by their personal insurance, resulting in many benefits for the state:

- Minimize potential developmental delay, and reduce economic burden through a decreased need for special education, and need for more comprehensive supports like waivers.
- Positively impact outcomes across developmental domains, including health, language and communication, cognitive development, and social/emotional development.
- Help all children with developmental disabilities become viable and contributing adults.