



**Senator Jim Lembke**  
1<sup>st</sup> Senate District

**MISSOURI SENATE**  
JEFFERSON CITY

Capitol Building, Room 428  
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# Senator Jim Lembke Supports Autism Insurance Bill

*Measure Would Require Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders*

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis, says a Senate bill awaiting a final vote is crucial to the health and wellbeing of thousands of Missouri children.

“The Legislature passed a great piece of legislation related to autism last year,” Sen. Lembke said. “Senate Bill 167 would complete the circle and provide the financial help to the families who are affected by autism. I fought hard for this bill on the Senate floor because I believe it is critical to so many hard-working families”

[Senate Bill 167](#) seeks to require health carriers to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders under certain conditions. This would add to the state’s commitment to help families who are living with autism. The [Blue Ribbon Panel on Autism](#) spent approximately a year meeting with health experts and those affected by autism before creating a set of recommendations, which became [Senate Bill 768](#), signed by the governor last year.

Senate Bill 167 would require most health carriers that issue or renew health benefit plans to provide coverage for diagnosis and treatment of people up to 18 years in age and would restrict health carriers from refusing to issue or renew coverage based solely on an individual having been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

“We need to give this bill one more favorable vote in order to send it to the House,” Sen. Lembke said. “With only about a month left in the session, time is critical, and I believe passing this bill is vital to our families.”

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