

[My Address]

3 September 2012

Governor Mitt Romney
Romney for President
PO Box 149756
Boston, MA 02114-9756

Governor Romney:

My name is [Dad Enough]. I am a [age] year old software developer living in Baltimore, Maryland, and I have voted in every election since my eighteenth birthday, though this is not what really matters. What does matter is that I am the father of two young boys. [The Monster], my four-year-old son, was diagnosed with Autism in January, after years of suspecting that he was on the spectrum and fighting with doctors to get them to make the diagnosis. He has been receiving services from Baltimore City since he was two, and is attending a tailored, reverse-inclusion program in the public schools this fall.

When it comes to healthcare matters, I will admit that thus far I am more aware of what you are against rather than of what you support, even with the selection Paul Ryan as your running mate. Autism research and treatment is a major issue on my radar in this election due to my son, as you can imagine. I know that you are aware that this is a major medical issue before our society, affecting at least 1 in every 88 children and 1 out of every 54 boys. I do not think that I can stress highly enough those numbers, or that I am being overly dramatic at calling such a state of affairs an epidemic.

A cornerstone of your campaign has been a promise that you will work to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This is all well and good, but my primary concerns are ensuring that I can get appropriate therapy for my son and that appropriate research to treat Autism Spectrum Disorders is performed - or at least funded - by our government due to the obvious impact this disorder has on so much of our population. Whether or not ACA remains the law of the land is of far lesser importance to me in this light.

Governor, I am asking what, if we decide to elect you to the Presidency, you intend to do with regards to the Autism epidemic. I and other parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders want to know that the Administration will take our children's problems seriously. We want to know that you will allocate appropriate resources to help research and treat our children.

In this vein, I have a few questions:

- As I mentioned above, a cornerstone of your campaign has been to repeal the ACA. As it is currently legislated, ACA may be interpreted as to include a

- mandate for insurers to cover Autism treatments such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). To date, it has been up to the discretion of the states to mandate such coverage – I am in a position where my insurance covers a treatment that I cannot find a provider for in my state due to differing insurance laws. Will you be taking a position on the federal level with regards to minimum insurance standards under whatever plan you propose, or will you be continuing to leave this to the states?
- Because a portion of my son’s care is not covered by insurance here in Maryland, I am forced to pay out of pocket for some of my son’s treatment. The deduction for medical expenses is expected to rise from 7.5% to 10% in the near future – will you, as part of your health care proposal, be open to reinstating the lower limit to help private citizens afford medical care not covered by insurance?
 - The Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011 funded federal research into Autism through 2014, as well as the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC). This committee has only recently met for the first time – nine months after being funded. Will you take steps to ensure that the government’s money is being spent wisely for Autism research and that committees are meeting frequently enough to be responsive to the community’s need? What, if I might ask, do you intend to do vis-à-vis the government’s role in coordinating Autism research?
 - A few months ago, you laid out in a white paper your position on making IDEA funds portable within a state. As the parent of a child with an IEP in a school district that has not been known for its success, are you prepared to elaborate on what precisely you mean to send to the Congress as legislation in this regard?

Governor Romney – I await your responses. Thank you for your time and your courtesy in reading my questions.

Sincerely,

[Dad Enough]
Voter
Husband
Father of Two