



International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL 324

CHARTERED FOR THE ENTIRE STATE OF MICHIGAN

March 6, 2012

JOHN M. HAMILTON
GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT
BUSINESS MANAGER

Senator James Marleau
Chairman, Michigan Senate Health Policy Committee
1010 Farnum Building
Lansing, MI 48909

STEVE MINELLA
PRESIDENT

Dear Senator Marleau,

DANIEL L. BOONE
VICE PRESIDENT

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 324 supports Senate Bills 414 and 415. Providing insurance coverage for children with autism, a brain disorder that affects 1 in 110 children, including 15,000 children in Michigan, is the right thing to do.

TOM SCOTT
RECORDING-CORRESPONDING
SECRETARY

DAVE HART
FINANCIAL SECRETARY
ASSISTANT TO THE BUSINESS MANAGER

The cost of lifelong care can be reduced by two-thirds with early diagnosis and intervention. As a self-insured Trust Fund, Local 324 would be happy to make this benefit available to our members, many of whom have children with autism. This is consistent with the Operating Engineers philosophy of commitment to enhance members' quality of life while acknowledging the value and additional financial investment our health care fund would be exposed to.

JIM ARINI
TREASURER

Autism is not a simple disorder. The treatment is complex and the coverage needs to be comprehensive. The insurance industry's policy group reports that autism insurance coverage will cost less than 1%, a burden the Operating Engineers is willing to bear.

TRUSTEES

LEE GRAHAM

BOBBY COLLINS

DERRICK SANDERS

Autism is a devastating yet manageable disease and we fully support Michigan joining with the 27 other states that provide parents with the tools they need to help their children live better lives and contribute to Michigan's future. As mentioned above, we feel that insurance coverage for autism is the right thing to do.

AUDITORS

R. TODD MCGREGOR

MICHAEL J. BARTHOLOMEW

STEVE SAUNDERS

Sincerely,

John Hamilton
General Vice President and Business Manager
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 324