



## 2026 PRIORITY BILLS WE SUPPORT

### 1. Improving Access to Care & Provider Networks

SB 152 / HB 517 – Medicaid Provider Network

Sen. Harrell/Rep. Tramont

### 2. Classroom & Exceptional Student Supports

SB 1170 / HB 859 – Cameras in Special Education Classrooms

Sen. Calatayud/Rep. Chambliss

### 3. Terminology Associated with Autism

HB 411/HB 717/SB1652 – Autism Spectrum Disorder Definitions & Educational Supports

Sen. Burgess/Rep. Maggard

### 4. Enhancing Safety & Interaction Supports

SB 418 / HB 365 – Law Enforcement Interactions with ASD

Sen. Jones/Rep. Valdes

### 5. Supporting Student & School-Based Mental Health

SB 978 – Student Mental Health Assistance Programs

Sen. Osgood



As a multidisciplinary provider serving children, adolescents, and adults, the **Adult and Pediatric Institute** champions legislation that **expands access to pediatric mental health care, autism evaluations, and early intervention services in Florida**. Our advocacy is rooted in direct clinical experience and family partnerships that support meaningful, evidence-based policy change.

## 2026 PRIORITY BILLS WE SUPPORT & WHY THEY MATTER

### 1. Improving Access to Care & Provider Networks

SB 152 / HB 517 – Medicaid Provider Networks

- Enhances Medicaid managed care contract requirements and strengthens network accountability, supporting broader access for pediatric and behavioral health providers.
  - Helps ensure more equitable reimbursement and better provider participation in Medicaid – a key access point for mental health and autism services.

**Our Policy Goal:** Increase access and capacity for all pediatric mental health and developmental evaluations statewide.

### 2. Classroom & Exceptional Student Supports

SB 1170 / HB 859 – Cameras in Special Education Classrooms

- Updates public school requirements for policies related to classroom supports (including exceptional student settings), reinforcing accountability and appropriate instructional environments, which benefits students with mental health and developmental needs.

**Our Policy Goal:** Ensure school environments are equipped to support students with behavioral health or autism-related needs.



## 3. Strengthening Autism Definitions & School Supports

HB 411/HB 717/SB1652 – Autism Spectrum Disorder Definitions & Educational Supports

- Revises definitions and ensures consistent terminology in Florida law – reducing confusion for providers and families navigating services.

**Our Policy Goal:** Align statute with up-to-date clinical definitions so families receive appropriate diagnoses and educational supports sooner.

## 4. Enhancing Safety & Interaction Supports

SB 418 / HB 365 – Law Enforcement Interactions with ASD

- Requires the Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles and the Criminal Justice Standards & Training Commission to develop training and communication tools to improve interactions between law enforcement and individuals with autism.

**Our Policy Goal:** Promote community safety and understanding – including for children and adolescents with autism – across public systems.

## 5. Supporting Student & School-Based Mental Health

SB 978 – Student Mental Health Assistance Programs

- Requires mental health assistance programs in schools to include policies ensuring at least one licensed mental health therapist per school and emotional regulation supports for every classroom.

**Our Policy Goal:** Expand in-school access to licensed pediatric mental health providers to support early intervention and wrap-around care.

## Our Commitment

The Adult and Pediatric Institute remains committed to partnering with Florida's lawmakers to advance effective, evidence-based policies that support children and families – ensuring that every child receives the care and opportunities they deserve.