

The Combating Autism Act of 2006 (S. 843) is an historic achievement in the Congress because of its goal to advance science and research specifically related to autism, which we hope will result in a greater understanding of autism causes and treatments. Through S. 843, Congress authorized funding for promoting early screening and increasing resources in this area, especially with the goal of increasing health care professionals available for screening.

The sharp rise in the number of autism cases is of great concern to me. Tens of thousands of children in are diagnosed with autism each year. Not only does autism affect the children, but also the lives of their siblings and parents. Autism has had a deep impact on many Nebraska families, and I believe their advocacy has contributed significantly to the successful outcome of this legislation.

S. 843 was approved unanimously in the House of Representatives on December 6, 2006. The Senate has also approved it and President Bush will soon sign it into law.

