



*A Unified Voice for Individuals with  
Autism Spectrum Disorder and Their Families*

**Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts (AFAM)** was formed in 2004 to address the need for public advocacy on behalf of individuals, families and professionals who have or deal with people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), which also encompasses Asperger's Syndrome and high-functioning Autism. The organization provides a vital arena for mobilizing those of us who deal with ASD in our day-to-day lives as the most eloquent and persuasive spokespeople for our concerns.

**What is advocacy?** Advocacy means giving aid to a cause – in this case, to the effort to enhance the lives of individuals on the spectrum and their families by providing meaningful services and supports. Advocacy means lending your voice, giving active verbal support for these efforts so public officials – and society in general -- will understand the urgency of the needs of our families.

**How We Help Families:** Each year, AFAM establishes legislative and budgetary priorities on Beacon Hill and directs its members to contact elected officials and urge them to support these measures. On Autism Awareness Day, hundreds of AFAM members come to the State House to learn about legislation which impacts individuals with ASD and visit with elected officials to discuss their concerns. Current priorities include passage of legislation to require insurers to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of ASD; a bill to address bullying of children with ASD; and improved teacher training in augmentative and alternative communications. During the last three years, a number of key AFAM priorities were enacted into law:

- Passage of H 1123, An Act to Address the Special Educational Needs of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Establishment of the Autism Division within the Department of Mental Retardation and subsequent expansion of funding for the Division
- Passage of H 4177, the Children's Autism Medicaid Waiver bill, which directed the state to apply for a Medicaid waiver to maximize federal reimbursement for critical services, including intensive in-home intervention services, determined essential to support low-income children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in their homes and communities

**Why You Should Join AFAM:** AFAM is ***your voice*** on Beacon Hill, advocating for the services you and your family need: early intervention, special education, residential, transportation and employment services, flexible supports, respite care and so much more. By lending your voice to our efforts, you can help secure these things for children and adults with ASD.

**How You Can Help:** Become involved! To learn more about Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts, please visit our Website at [www.afamaction.org](http://www.afamaction.org) or email us at [office@afamaction.org](mailto:office@afamaction.org) or call 781- 891-6270, ext. 102.

**AFAM**  
**217 South Street**  
**Waltham, Ma 02453**  
**781-891-6270, ext. 102 [www.afamaction.org](http://www.afamaction.org)**

**AFAM Member Organizations**  
Autism Support Center - Danvers  
Autism Resource Center of Central Massachusetts - W. Boylston  
Community Autism Resources - Swansea  
Autism Society of America, Massachusetts Chapter - Wellesley  
Community Resources for People with Autism - Easthampton  
Asperger's Association of New England - Watertown  
Family Autism Center - Westwood  
TILL/BFA Autism Services - Greater Boston  
Autism Alliance of Metrowest - Natick  
Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism - Framingham  
The Arc of Massachusetts - Waltham  
Massachusetts Advocates for Children - Boston  
Autism Speaks New England Chapter – Watertown

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**Yes, I want to support AFAM!**

- Supporter (Up to \$50)  
 Friend (\$51 - \$149)  
 Advocate (\$150 - \$299)  
 Leader (\$300 and above)

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** These categories are for individual/family supporters only.  
Organizational/professional/corporate sponsorships are also available. Please contact  
AFAM about sponsorship opportunities.

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Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to The Arc of Massachusetts with AFAM in the notation  
line and mail to: AFAM, 217 South Street, Waltham, MA 02453