

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of L.D. 51  
and IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 1098 and 1209  
by Regina Creeley M. Ed.  
April 3, 2023

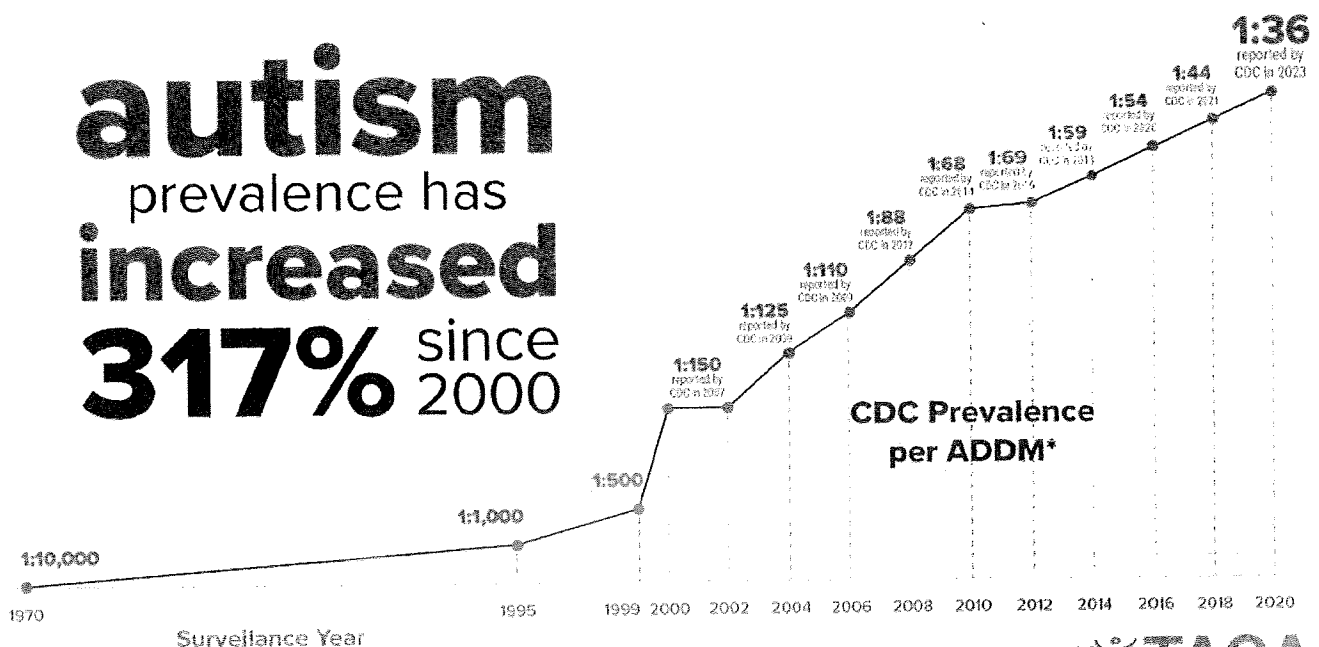
Good afternoon Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.

My name is Regina Creeley and I am testifying in support of L.D. 51, 1098 and 1209. My residence is in Hudson and I'm a retired special education teacher. In 2014, I was voted Special Education Professional of the year (by the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC)).

This is a graph depicting the steadily increasing rate of autism. Up and up it goes. I call it the Doomsday Graph. Autism is increasing steadily with no end in sight. Cancer in teenagers is rising 1% per year. Childhood diabetes is on the rise. Our children are getting sicker and sicker and sicker.

MARCH 23, 2023 IRVINE, CA

# Autism Prevalence is Now 1 in 36, Signifying the 22% Increase in Prevalence Rates Reported by the CDC Since 2021



# autism prevalence

AS REPORTED BY THE CDC - ADDM REPORT: 2000-2020

BIRTH YEAR	SURVEY YEAR	YEAR REPORTED	AUTISM RATE
2012	2020	2023	1 in 36
2010	2018	2021	1 in 44
2008	2016	2020	1 in 54
2006	2014	2018	1 in 59
2004	2012	2016	1 in 69
2002	2010	2014	1 in 68
2000	2008	2012	1 in 88
1998	2006	2009	1 in 110
1996	2004	2009	1 in 125
1994	2002	2007	1 in 150
1992	2000	2007	1 in 150

**NOTES:**

ADDM = Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network

Source: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)



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**AKTAC**  
Autism Knowledge Translation and Action Center

Information from TACA (The Autism Community in Action),



TACA did the graphics for the graph and chart with red headings.

The Autism Community in Action (TACA) shared that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports, autism prevalence has significantly increased to 1 in 36 U. S. children diagnosed with autism. The CDC introduced the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDM) 16 years ago. The first report concluded 1 in 150 U. S. individuals are diagnosed with autism. In 2023, this number increased by 22 percent in two years and 317 percent since the CDC began counting.

"The CDC prevalence figure is showing a true increase in those being diagnosed with autism. We are not better at diagnosing. There is no widening of the diagnostic criteria or any other excuses. We have more autism. With the reality of this increase, I hope more people will care. As the number of cases continues to increase at an alarming rate the result is more and more families and their children need services and support," said Lisa Ackerman, Founder and Executive Director of TACA. "A prevalence of 1 in 36 cannot be disregarded. Families and their children are counting on us to care, act, and support them. We cannot ignore this epidemic."

## Key Facts from the 2020 report:

- 1 in 36 U. S. children have an autism diagnosis
- 22 percent increase since the last prevalence survey in 2021
- The following 11 states are included in the survey:  
AZ, AK, CA, GA, MD, MI, NO, NJ, TN, UT and WI
- 37.9 percent of the children were classified as having an intellectual disability
- 4 percent of boys, 1 percent of girls have been diagnosed with autism
- This new data indicates autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is common across all groups of children and underscores the considerable need for equitable and accessible screening, services, and support for all children.

The Autism Community in Action (TACA) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to educating and supporting families affected by autism. With 1 in 36 children in the U. S. diagnosed with autism, support for families is needed now more than ever before. TACA's mission is to provide education, support, and hope to families living with autism with the goal of independence.

## About The Autism Community in Action CA)

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