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## WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I would like to personally welcome you to the website for the Senate Select Committee on Autism (ASD) and Related Disorders. This Select Committee, which I will chair, will provide a legislative forum for deliberations, analysis, outreach, and recommendations on the most pressing issues and concerns facing families who are dealing with ASD.

This Select Committee signals California's ongoing bipartisan commitment to individuals with ASD and their families. I am joined by an impressive list of other key California legislators from all parts of the state. Important issues that the Committee has decided to tackle will include appropriate health insurance coverage, early identification and treatment, and promoting appropriate employment and housing for individuals with ASD.

The Select Committee has established a series of regional taskforces that will assist our work in dealing with the autism epidemic. These taskforces include some of the state's most distinguished leaders who are committed to advancing strong and effective autism public policy.

Additional information about the Committee and its taskforces can be obtained by means of the "Leadership & Staff Directory" that is also provided on this website. The district offices of the Select Committee Senators may also be able to provide information or assistance.

Thank you for your interest in this important and exciting project.

Sincerely,

**DARRELL STEINBERG** State Senator, 6<sup>th</sup> District

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Chair, Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders