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DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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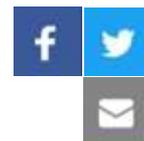
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DOI Honored with 'Executive Champion' Award from Autism Speaks
Department recognized for work to provide health care for autistic children

BOISE, ID – Bringing about sweeping change to provide health coverage for Idaho children with autism has earned the Department of Insurance the prestigious 'Executive Champion' award from the national advocacy group Autism Speaks. Until April of this year, Idaho was one of four states that did not require health carriers to provide coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

After multiple discussions with parents, health carriers and state lawmakers, insurers in Idaho are now required to offer coverage for this complex developmental disability through a treatment known as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), a therapy based on the science of learning and behavior.

Director Dean Cameron accepted the award earlier this month at the Autism Law Summit in San Antonio, Texas, one of only three awarded nationally. Autism Speaks sponsors autism research, promotes awareness and conducts outreach. Lorri Unumb, vice president of State Government Affairs, said her group is "quite selective" when it comes to handing out the organization's highest honor.

"Director Cameron skillfully involved parents, insurance carriers and legislators, while using existing federal law to craft what I call an 'Idaho solution' to provide health coverage for those with autism," said Unumb. "He's a compassionate leader who was moved by Idaho families impacted by the lack of coverage for their loved ones with autism."

Earlier this year, the Department issued guidance for ABA coverage that applies to individual, group and self-funded health plans. Since Idaho became the first state to implement this broad change, other states are now making similar changes.

Attached photo: (L-R) Director Dean Cameron, Lorri Unumb, Idaho parent Richelle Tierney and Lobbyist Benn Brocksome.

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to serve and protect Idahoans by equitably, effectively and efficiently administering the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit doi.idaho.gov.

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