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For Immediate Release
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**COUNCIL MEMBERS, FAMILIES OF CHILDREN
WITH AUTISM, AND AUTISM SERVICE PROVIDERS HOLD
RALLY AND PRESS CONFERENCE TO URGE RESTORATION
OF NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL AUTISM INITIATIVE**

Council Members from across the city, along with families of children with autism, and autism service providers, rallied in support of the restoration of the New York City Council's Autism Initiative, which provides autism services to children and families.

"Autism impacts too many children and families today," said Council Member Mark S. Weprin. "It knows no boundaries."

The Autism Initiative provides social and recreational services for children on the autism spectrum, as well as educational and training services to their families. The result is that children can live fuller and more productive lives. The initiative funds not only direct programming, but also childcare services that allow parents to hold jobs, knowing that their children are safe and receiving appropriate, compassionate care.

Several Council Members noted that the prevalence of autism has increased. While there is no cure, quality services go a long way toward maximizing positive outcomes. Children with autism respond better and have a better quality of life when they have access to services that allow them to engage and participate in social skill development. Likewise, parent awareness and training leads to early intervention, which is critical for ensuring that children receive services in proper educational settings.