



Joint Statement from Seven Leading Autism Advocacy Groups on IACC Strategic Plan Process

Groups Request Public Comment Period be Extended from 4 days to 90 days

The Autism Science Foundation, Autism Society of America, the National Council on Severe Autism, the Coalition of Autism Scientists, Autism Speaks, and the Autistic Self Advocacy Network strongly support the Profound Autism Alliance's request for a 90-day extension of the public comment period on the draft Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) Strategic Plan. A four-day comment period is simply insufficient for stakeholders to thoughtfully review a complex, over 300-page document and provide meaningful feedback.

The IACC Strategic Plan helps shape the nation's priorities for autism research, services, and policy. Given its importance to autistic people, families, researchers, clinicians, service providers, and other stakeholders, four days is completely inadequate.

A 90-day public comment period would promote broad participation, ensure that diverse perspectives are heard, and strengthen the final Strategic Plan. Robust public engagement is essential to developing a roadmap that reflects the needs and priorities of the entire autism community and helps guide federal investments for years to come.

We respectfully urge the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the IACC to extend the public comment period by 90 days to allow stakeholders the opportunity to fully engage in this important process.

Signatories:

Profound Autism Alliance: Judith Ursitti, President

Autism Science Foundation: Alison Singer, President

Autism Society of America: Joe Joyce, President and CEO

Coalition of Autism Scientists: Helen Tager-Flusberg, Founder

National Council on Severe Autism: Jill Escher, President

Autism Speaks: Keith Wargo, President and CEO

Autistic Self Advocacy Network: Colin Killick, Executive Director