



AUTISM SPEAKS  
It's time to listen.

March 8, 2016

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

**RE: Kevin and Avonte's Law (S.2614)**

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Schumer:

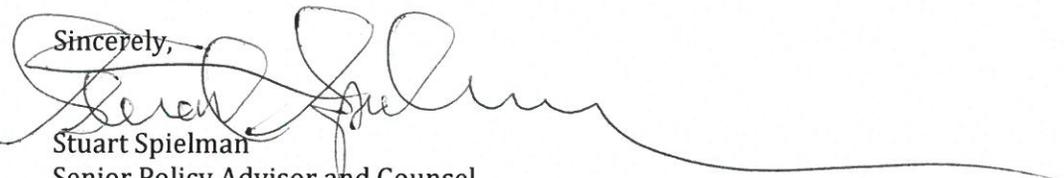
I am writing to express the strong support of Autism Speaks for *Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016* (S. 2614). This bill would promote initiatives to reduce the risk of injury and death associated with wandering.

About 1 in 68 children has an autism spectrum disorder, and each year many of these children wander away from the safety of their families, homes, and schools. A recent [study](#) suggests that a third of school-age children with autism stray from adult supervision in any given year. As may be expected, younger children wander off more frequently than older children, but wandering continues to be a problem among older youth. Whatever his or her age, a child who wanders is at risk of harm and even death.

*Kevin and Avonte's Law* would diminish the risk to children by awarding grants to state and local law enforcement or public safety agencies to assist in designing programs to prevent wandering and locate missing children. A multi-faceted approach to wandering prevention and response is best to prevent wandering. *Kevin and Avonte's Law* represents such an approach.

Autism Speaks commends your offices for this legislation. The autism community is grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

  
Stuart Spielman  
Senior Policy Advisor and Counsel  
Autism Speaks