Parent of a child with Autism
Spouse is on the spectrum
Experienced the frustration of getting a diagnosis for my child and appropriate services and school support
Advocacy
Organizational Activities

* Accomplishments of LEND/DBP programs under the CARES legislation
  * 2,663 LEND & DBP trainees completed coursework early signs of ASD/DD; screening; diagnosis; and/or evidenced-based interventions for ASD/DD
  * 1,283 LEND & DBP trainees completed coursework covering early signs of ASD/DD; screening; diagnosis; and/or evidenced-based interventions for ASD/DD
  * 89,872 infants/children who received interdisciplinary diagnostic services to confirm or rule out ASD/DD
  * 1,942 LEND/DBP faculty and/or fellows worked in clinical settings located in an underserved area or work with underserved populations

* 2015 CARES Grantee Meeting  

* ASD Special Interest Group

* Including People with Disabilities – Public Health Workforce Competencies

* Pediatrics commentary - “System wide Solutions to Improve Early Intervention for Developmental–Behavioral Concerns”  
  [bit.ly/1L6EwVP](http://bit.ly/1L6EwVP)
The need to increase the number of LEND programs as originally intended under the Autism Cares Act to target the lack of trained professionals to diagnose/rule out, and provide evidence-based interventions

School to Prison pipeline for minority children with ASD

ASD and Mental Health

“I would like an effort to allocate a higher percentage of research for and about autistic adults, with a focus to be on services and improvement of quality of life/independence... more community-based, participatory research that partners with autistic adults would be wonderful.” - Sara Luterman, Autism Self Advocate