

September 10, 2004

Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh,
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Parliament Hill
O T T A W A
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

I am writing to you today to bring to your attention an outstanding problem within the health care system which affects millions of Canadian children.

At a time when health care is at the forefront of public policy discussions, it is crucial that we ensure that the needs of one out of every 200 Canadian children diagnosed with Autism are taken into consideration. As you may be aware, thousands of children now sit on waiting lists for treatment, despite the fact that early intervention is an essential component of the treatment. Delays in treatment also result in exponential cost increases down the road.

I have attached a copy of a letter I received from Andrew Kavchak, a concerned father of a child with autism and an outspoken advocate for the rights of autistic children. I urge you to read his letter carefully and to work with your provincial counterparts as you meet over the next few weeks to ensure that these treatments are made available to those who need them so desperately.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Hon. Senator Mac Harb

Encl.