

Broder Law Group, P.C. will keep you up to date on legal issues affecting special education.

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Do you have confidence in your child's IEP? Broder Law Group offers a primer on the process.

NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES **Special Education Week** MAY 11-17, 2008

Senator from NJ proposes three-part bill would help people with autism nationwide

A U.S. Senator from New Jersey has proposed a three-part bill that would help people with autism by improving access to information, increasing awareness about the disorder, and creating a grant system to improve their housing options.

Sen. Robert Menendez was joined in Washington, D.C., by representatives of Autism Speaks and New Jersey COSAC, which support his goal for a Helping HANDS for Autism Act. The acronym HANDS stands for the bill's key components of Housing, Awareness, and Navigation Demonstration Services.

If approved, the act would establish a grant program to offer families a trained "navigator" to connect them with services and support after an autism diagnosis. Secondly, the act would develop a comprehensive curriculum for first responders like police and paramedics, and provide grants to states so those responders could be trained in assisting people with autism. Third, the act would set up grants for individual housing and services for people with autism.

Details of the [Helping HANDS for Autism Act](#) are on Menendez's website.

Help Spread the Word!

South Jersey Magazine is on the hunt for South Jersey's best attorneys. Nominate Seth by going to the magazine's [website](#) to enter him in various categories (education, land

use, trusts & estates, real estate and business litigation). You'll need the Broder Law Group address and phone number, plus his email address (details above), plus his age (37).

New NJ Family Leave law covers parents of children with special needs

Gov. Jon Corzine has signed a law that gives paid time off to workers when they need to care for family members. While the most common use is thought to be the care of a newborn, the new law will also benefit families whose children have special needs.

The law extends New Jersey's Temporary Disability Insurance to cover workers with family needs, not just workers who couldn't attend to their job because of their own illness. The bulk of the program focuses on short-term disabilities such as lengthy illnesses, the birth of a child or the impending death of a parent. But its rules also apply to any worker who needs to care for a

family member who needs help because of age, illness or impairment, and the time frame can be one continuous period or intermittent dates.

Starting in June 2009, that means parents slammed with a disability diagnosis for their child can both attend a doctor's appointment or therapy session without suffering a 100 percent loss of income. In addition, the program allows leave any time within 12 months of a child's birth; helpful for parents of children whose special needs are revealed months down the road.

See fast facts about the bill on the [Broder Law Group](#) website.

