



**Team Shawnie**  
ADVOCACY GROUP

[www.teamshawniegroup.org](http://www.teamshawniegroup.org)

# Our Monthly Newsletter - May 2023



Through this newsletter, we aim to empower and inform our members about the vital work we are doing to advocate for the rights and needs of individuals on the Autism spectrum. Join us on this journey of making a positive impact, as we collaborate, raise awareness, and create a more inclusive and accepting society for all. Together, we can make a difference!

TEAM SHAWNIE WELCOMES  
ABOARD OUR NEW ADVOCATE

## Amy Davenport Petronio

*Master Special Education*

Amy has a strong skill set of advocating knowledge and experience. She will be able to make an immediate impact in supporting the TSAG mission statement. TSAG was successful in advocating for a strong single parent for her child to receive an IEP. The school district that we went up against had been unreasonable in the past, declining the parent's request. She contacted TSAG and we immediately worked with her in putting a strong team that included, the local State Representative and the Chairman of the School Committee.

## We've done it again!

The Team Shawnie Advocacy Group was once again successful in advocating for an out-of-district placement due to a school district being unable to provide the proper education for an adolescent with a reading disability. We continue with our mission to protect and fight for those that cannot.



## Our Wall Art

Transform your living space with our stunning Autism themed wall art collection available at our online store this summer. Each piece is beautifully designed to inspire, uplift and bring joy to your home, while also raising awareness for Autism and supporting our advocacy efforts. For more info please visit our online store.





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# WHAT'S AHEAD

The Initiatives We Are  
Currently Working On



## CURRENTLY THIS MONTH

- TSAG IS ADVOCATING FOR A YOUNG CHILD WITH AN IEP TO RECEIVE ABA THERAPY.
- TSAG IS ADVOCATING FOR ANOTHER YOUNG AUTISTIC CHILD TO RECEIVE IEP SERVICES.
- TSAG IS ADVOCATING FOR A CHILD TO RECEIVE OUT-OF-DISTRICT SCHOOL PLACEMENT DUE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEGLIGENCE AND INABILITY TO PROVIDE THE PROPER EDUCATION.
- TSAG WAS SUCCESSFUL IN ASSISTING A FAMILY FOR THEIR CHILD TO RECEIVE OUT-OF-SCHOOL DISTRICT PLACEMENT DUE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT INABILITY TO PROVIDE THE PROPER LEARNING SERVICES NEEDED.

## Advocacy Group's Recent Efforts in Promoting Inclusion and Equality

Our advocacy group has been actively working on several new cases, advocating for the rights and needs of individuals with autism. From ensuring access to quality education and support services to addressing discrimination and promoting inclusion, our dedicated team has been tirelessly fighting for positive change.

Through strategic partnerships, public awareness campaigns, and legal initiatives, we aim to create a more inclusive society where individuals on the spectrum can thrive and reach their full potential. With every new case, we strive to make a lasting impact and improve the lives of those in the autism community.





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# Our Founder's Corner

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Shane, Shawnie, and Cheryl Halajko



## CPR CERTIFIED

Congratulations to Shawnie, on achieving his CPR certification! This is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to his dedication and commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

His achievement serves as a reminder that individuals on the Autism spectrum possess incredible capabilities and can contribute greatly to society.

Keep shining bright and continue making a positive impact on the world. Well done!

## SHAWNIE & OLIVIA

Shawnie had the opportunity to attend one of his sister Olivia's dance competitions in Massachusetts in the month of April. He was absolutely excited to be at such an event. He is certainly very proud of Olivia, who is a very talented young woman. Congratulations to her!







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# Shawnie Bill News Update

[www.teamshawniegroup.org](http://www.teamshawniegroup.org)



We are immensely grateful for the unwavering support and dedication of our state representative Steven Howitt (<https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/SSH1/193>) in championing the cause of special needs children through his introduction of vital bills. His commitment to our Autism advocacy group and the broader special needs community has been instrumental in driving positive change. By introducing the bills listed below, he has demonstrated a deep understanding of the challenges faced by children with special needs and their families and has taken concrete steps to address these issues.

These proactive efforts can pave the way for improved access to resources, services, and support that are crucial in ensuring the well-being and success of special needs children. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our state representative for his relentless advocacy and for making a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals in our community.

## HERE ARE THE PROPOSED BILLS

- An Act ensuring the appropriate and timely payment and residential service placement for children deemed to be a safety risk - An Act ensuring the appropriate and timely payment and residential service placement for children deemed to be a safety risk
- An Act Relative to independent child protection - An Act Relative to independent child protection
- An Act Relative to special education reimbursement programs - An Act relative to special education reimbursement programs



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# Team Shawnie Online Store

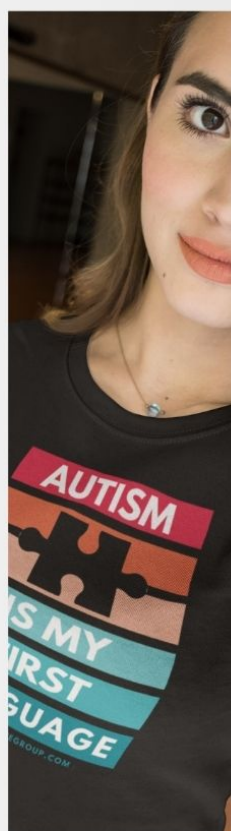
[www.teamshawniegroupp.com/store](http://www.teamshawniegroupp.com/store)

Clothing

Hats

Accessories

Wall Art



*New Arrivals*  
COMING THIS SPRING

Use the code

**TSAG10**

at checkout