

April 4, 2013

Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Tara MacMillan and I drove here today from Bend. I have a six year old son with autism. I would like to ask that you support SB365 which would mandate insurance coverage for ABA therapy for autistic children in Oregon.

My son was diagnosed with autism in March 2009 at age 2 and 1/2. As parents, our world was shattered and the outlook for our son's future was dim.

All of that changed when our son began intensive ABA therapy. Our son Michael received approximately 25 hours/week of ABA therapy from age 2½ to age 5½. From the beginning, the changes in him were miraculous. To quantify his progress, I have brought his test scores at the beginning and ending of a nine week intensive ABA program for young children. As you can see, he progressed over a year in development in nine weeks.

Michael continued with intensive ABA therapy until he was about 5½. At that point, his therapist told us that we did not need to continue with such intense therapy. He currently receives approximately one hour a week of ABA for maintenance. Michael is a vastly different person now than he was at 2½. He is, for all intensive purposes, a normal six year old. He attends kindergarten at a public school with minimal assistance from his teacher. He is in the highest reading group, he has many friends and he is flourishing. In order to quantify his overall progress, I have also brought his evaluation scores from three different evaluations throughout his childhood. His most current diagnosis is High Functioning Autistic Disorder, Resolving.

It was very difficult for our family to obtain ABA therapy. The costs are prohibitive (~\$2,000/month). We paid for his therapy out of our own pockets because our insurance did not cover it. I would estimate that our total out of pocket costs were ~\$100,000 over the course of Michael's childhood. But, it was so worth it! Michael is now a normal child and will go on to live a normal, full life. He will be an independent, productive member of our society. My husband and I no longer worry about the burden of caring for an adult with special needs. And the State of Oregon will not have to pay to care for him in the future.

In my opinion, it is in the state of Oregon's best interest to mandate insurance coverage for ABA therapy. By doing so, the state will save itself from expenses that last throughout lifetimes.

I would like to add that the passage of this bill would not help our family. We have already paid for Michael's therapy. I am here today for other families with autistic children. I want other parents to be able to obtain ABA therapy for their children through their medical insurance. Please help all autistic children in Oregon reach their full potential and support SB365.

Michael MacMillan's Progress with ABA Therapy

Test Scores - UCLA Early Childhood Partial Hospitalization Program (30 Hours/week of ABA Therapy) Nine Week Program

Psychoeducational Profile Revised (PEP-R)

Intake Scores (Chronological Age - 32 Months)

Imitation 27 Months
Perception 21 Months
Cognitive Performance 22 Months
Cognitive Verbal 24 Months

Exit Scores (Chronological Age - 34 Months)

Imitation 41 Months
Perception 48 Months
Cognitive Performance 33 Months
Cognitive Verbal 40 Months

Michael MacMillan's Progress with ABA Therapy

Test Scores - OHSU Child Development and Rehabilitation Center 2009

Diagnosis - Autistic Disorder, Global Developmental Delay

Mullen Scales of Early Learning (Chronological Age - 29 Months)

Visual Reception	24 Months
Fine Motor	22 Months
Receptive Language	22 Months
Expressive Language	18 Months

Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)

Communication	7 - Autism
Socialization	12 - Autism
Communication & Socialization Total	19 - Autism

2010

Diagnosis - Autistic Disorder, High Functioning

Mullen Scales of Early Learning (Chronological Age - 3 Years 6 Months)

Visual Reception	4 Years 2 Months
Fine Motor	2 Years 10 Months
Receptive Language	3 Years 4 Months
Expressive Language	3 Years 4 Months

Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)

Communication	4 - Non-Spectrum
Socialization	10 - Autism
Communication & Socialization Total	14 - Autism

2012

Diagnosis - High Functioning Autistic Disorder, Resolving

Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence

Verbal IQ	110	High Average
Performance IQ	103	Average
Processing Speed	85	Low Average
Full Scale IQ	103	Average

Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)

Communication	1 - Non-Spectrum
Socialization	6 - Autism
Communication & Socialization Total	7 - Autism