



## Testimony in Support of SB 365A

### Joint Committee Ways and Means, Human Services Sub-committee

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Co-chairs Nathanson and Bates and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide brief testimony in support of SB 365A. This legislation reflects the efforts of a legislative workgroup that met for nearly a year, under the leadership of Senator Bates. PacificSource was an active member of the workgroup and is pleased to have been able to assist in crafting this legislation. SB 365A reflects a consensus bill that will successfully do the following:

- Provide young children, who are diagnosed with autism, the opportunity for Applied Behavioral Analysis services as a covered benefit, whether they are commercially insured, covered by PEBB, OEBC or the Oregon Health Plan.
- Ensure that providers making the diagnosis of autism bring a sufficient level of expertise and knowledge.
- Develop a pathway for establishing a high-quality ABA provider network, through the creation of Behavior Analysis Regulatory Board.

We recognize that as a new mandate, SB 365A has a costs associated with it. The workgroup sought to develop this ABA mandate with a balance between cost, quality and efficacy. Clinical research suggests that ABA therapy provides the greatest positive outcomes in younger children. With this in mind – the workgroup developed age and total hours per week sideboards that are compatible with both medical literature and an effort to mitigate costs.

You have many competing priorities for funding, but we believe this is a well-balanced and timely piece of legislation. We urge your support of SB 365A.

Thank you.

#### **About PacificSource Health Plans**

PacificSource Health Plans is an independent, not-for-profit community health plan serving the Northwest. Founded in 1933, PacificSource is based in Eugene, Oregon, with local offices throughout Oregon and in Idaho and Montana. The PacificSource family of companies employs 700 people, serves more than 300,000 individuals, and has 6,200 employer clients throughout the Northwest. PacificSource Community Solutions, Inc. is a subsidiary of PacificSource Health Plans and is the Coordinated Care Organization in Central Oregon and the Gorge. You are welcome to contact **Ken Provencher**, President and CEO, at (541) 684-5286 or (800) 624-6052, ext. 2286, or by e-mail at [kprovencher@pacificsource.com](mailto:kprovencher@pacificsource.com), or **Marian Blankenship**, Director of Government Relations/Executive Director of the Charitable Foundation at (541) 684-5221, or by e-mail at [mblankenship@pacificsource.com](mailto:mblankenship@pacificsource.com).