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Oregon Senate Health Care Committee

Re.: SB696

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson:

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts and concerns regarding SB696. I first want to offer special thanks to Senator Bates for his continuous support of the autism community and his current efforts on SB696.

As a developmental and clinical psychologist who has provided behavioral services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families for more than 20 years, I am very concerned that SB696 include assurances that those with ASD will be able to access proven intervention approaches. Since arriving in Oregon 6 years ago, I have worked for insurance reform, particularly for coverage for intensive intervention using proven behavioral approaches, namely applied behavioral analysis.

Last Saturday a work group consisting of Board Certified Behavior Analysts and licensed health professionals and others concerned with providing intensive intervention for those with ASD, met to discuss our recommendations for SB696. The key points which emerged from this effort with unanimous support are critical to the success of treatment for ASD in Oregon and should be included in the final version of the bill. I am attaching our joint statement which was delivered to Senator Bates on Monday to provide the committee with the key elements for moving forward with autism intervention in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Carol B. Markovics, Ph.D.