

April 8, 2015

To: Oregon Senate Healthcare Committee; Chair, Senator Monnes Anderson

Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the Senate Healthcare Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and input into the development of Senate Bill 696. I would also like to extend specific thanks to Senator Alan Bates for his longstanding work and advocacy on behalf of the Autism Community in general, as well as for his work on Senate Bill 696 in particular.

I am the President of the Oregon Speech-Language & Hearing Association (OSHA), which is the official professional organization that represents Oregon's more than 2000 licensed Speech-Language Pathologists, Audiologists, and Speech-Language Pathology Assistants. Our organization has been working collaboratively with a diverse group of stakeholders to collect and synthesize ideas regarding the impact of upcoming legislation, with an overall goal of expanding access to medically necessary treatments for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders provided by adequately trained, competent professionals. OSHA looks forward to legislation that, in its final version, incorporates the key points that this group of stakeholders has agreed upon.

Our stakeholders' group has summarized these points in a letter to Senator Bates's office dated April 4, 2015. OSHA's legislative chair, Kathy de Domingo, signed this letter on behalf of OSHA. We endorse the approach outlined in the letter to Senator Bates, and we eagerly anticipate final language in Senate Bill 696 that incorporates these concepts.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input, and for the Committee's work on critical issues involving healthcare for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Sincerely,

Andy McMillin, MA, CCC-SLP
President, Oregon Speech-Language & Hearing Association

cc: Senator Jeff Kruse
Senator Tim Knopp
Senator Chip Shields
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Senator Alan Bates