

May 18, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Legislative Chair of the Oregon Speech, Language and Hearing Association (OSHA), I strongly support Senate Bill 696. The proposals made by Senator Bates and the Senate Committee regarding the structure and function of the Behavioral Analysis Regulatory Board (BARB) are well constructed and represent a broad consensus of professionals who use Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) techniques in their practices for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Just as nearly every condition that impacts human growth, development and well-being has no “one-size fits- all” approach for each individual impacted, ABA is not the singular treatment option for children with ASD. Every child impacted by ASD presents a variety of symptoms to varying degrees of severity. A number of professionals are involved in the habilitation, behavioral and educational efforts to improve the function and quality of life of these children. For many of these professionals, ABA is among the treatment tools that they are able to utilize within the scope of their license and expertise. A Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), certified by the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), and licensed by the State of Oregon, is bound by their Code of Ethics. The following Principles provide guidance relevant to the practice of ABA and membership on the BARB:

Principle of Ethics II: “Individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence and performance.”

Rules of Ethics: B. Individuals shall engage in only those aspects of the professions that are within the scope of their professional practice and competence, considering their level of education, training, and experience.

C. Individuals shall engage in lifelong learning to maintain and enhance professional competence and performance

Principle of Ethics IV: “Individuals shall honor their responsibilities to the professions and their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of other professions and disciplines.”

Rules of Ethics: A. Individuals shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the professions, maintain harmonious interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships, and accept the professions' self-imposed standards.”

Furthermore, within the Oregon Statutes that guide the licensure and practice of Speech Language Pathology, the following is stated:

“335-005-0015

Welfare of Clients

(1) Individuals shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally.

(2) Individuals shall provide all services competently.

(3) Individuals shall use all appropriate resources, including referral when appropriate.

335-005-0020

Professional Competence

(1) Individuals shall engage in only those aspects of the professions that are within the scope of their competence, considering their level of education, training, and experience.

(2) Individuals shall continue their professional development throughout their careers.

335-005-0025

Accurate Representation

(1) Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training, or experience.”

Like all of the professions using ABA as a treatment approach, SLPs are governed by their licensure and practice standards, both to practice in areas in which they have appropriate training and expertise, and to work with other professionals in a harmonious way that promotes the best interests of the persons they serve. Maintaining a place on the BARB will assure that the broad interests of families who are impacted by ASD will be assured as well as promoting the interdisciplinary approaches that are necessary to enhance the lives of the children receiving treatment. The Board of the Oregon Speech, Language & Hearing Association urges you to pass Senate Bill 696 as proposed.

Sincerely,

Kathy de Domingo, MS, CCC-SLP, FACMPE

Legislative Chair

Oregon Speech, Language and Hearing Association