

May 14, 2015

Senator Alan Bates  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Nancy Nathanson  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: SB 696 - SUPPORT**

Dear Chairs Bates and Nathanson:

Autism Research Group submits this letter in support of **SB 696**, a bill that will increase access to evidence-based autism treatment in Oregon.

Autism Research Group is a nonprofit organization committed to conducting scientific research that improves the quality of life for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and the people who love them. We envision a world in which people with ASD have unbridled access to scientifically-proven treatment that enables them to fulfill their potential. SB 696 increases access to such treatment.

Research has demonstrated the effectiveness of applied behavior analysis in treating the symptoms and delays associated with autism spectrum disorder. The effectiveness of ABA-based treatment is optimized when children with autism spectrum disorder are identified early and receive intensive behavioral intervention. Given the prevalence rate of autism of 1:68 children, SB 696's role in expanding access to evidence-based treatment is critical, as it eliminates the college coursework requirements for the Behavior Analysis Interventionists while ensuring sufficient training standards to deliver effective ABA.

Thank you for your foresight in offering this bill. We are honored to support it. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [A.Persicke@autismresearchgroup.org](mailto:A.Persicke@autismresearchgroup.org).

Sincerely,

  
Angela Persicke, MA, BCBA  
Assistant Director