



April 29, 2015

The Oregon Psychological Association is writing in support of SB 696 A. The intent of the previously legislative work that brings the benefit of Applied Behavioral Analysis as an accessible treatment options for our citizens is greatly appreciated. As the guidelines for practitioner competency for the treatment of autism were established they unfortunately did not take into account the overlap with the authority of other health licensing boards in our state.

SB 696 A will correct issues that have arisen with implementation of the Behavior Analysis Regulatory Board or BARB. It will greatly streamline the licensing of providers of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) based behavioral therapies. SB 696 A will ensure that the Behavior Analysis Regulatory Board legislation is more consistent with the Health Licensing framework for other boards. It will provide a path to licensure for existing, experienced ABA providers -- resulting in better network capacity through this transition. In addition it will clarify that the Board's responsibility is focused on Applied Behavior Analysis based therapy providers which will eliminate inadvertent roadblocks to coverage for other forms of treatment for autism

These corrections are critical to ensure that children with ASD have access to Applied Behavior Analysis based behavioral therapies as well as the other treatment options for autism that may be needed. ABA based behavioral therapies are evidence-based treatments for children with ASD. Oregon's Health Evidence Review Commission, U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, U.S. Surgeon General and many others have endorsed ABA therapies as evidence-based treatments for children with autism. Many psychologists have trained for competency in the treatment of autism and it is imperative that patients have access to their psychologist in providing treatment for their autism.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Oregon Psychological Association