



February 16, 2017

Via Email

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick, Chair
& Members of the Committee on Health Care
412 NW Couch Street #104
Portland, OR 97209

Re: House Bill 2931 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Greenlick & Members of the Committee on Health Care:

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) submits this letter in support of House Bill 2931, a bill that would address an unintended limitation in ORS 676.815 by clarifying the educational criterion for behavior interventionists as requiring a *minimum* of a high school diploma.

CARD is the world's largest organization treating autism spectrum disorder using the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and the nation's third largest non-governmental organization contributing to autism research. CARD provides services at over 100 locations throughout the United States, including six locations in Oregon, and at international locations in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, employing a workforce of over 2,000 dedicated professionals.

CARD supported the original legislation that created the criteria for behavior analysis interventionists but did not foresee that a literal interpretation of the bill's language compels insurers and state agencies not to recognize the education of an individual who has attained a post-secondary degree unless that individual can also provide evidence of having a high school diploma or equivalent. The incidence of individuals having college degrees without having first attained a high school diploma is higher than one might think, and we look forward to the opportunity to hire such individuals upon this bill's passage.

Thank you for identifying and advancing this important issue. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at J.Kornack@centerforautism.com.

Sincerely,

Julie Kornack
Director of Public Policy
(818) 345-2345, extension 1070