



NW Autism and Education Services LLC

March 11, 2019

To the Senate Committee on Health Care:

Chair: Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson

Vice-Chair: Senator Dennis Linthicum

Members: Senator Lee Beyer, Senator Shemia Fagan, Senator Tim Knopp

SB135 addresses the concern that current patient/client protections are inadequate. I am in support of transferring the administrative and enforcement support of the Behavior Analysis Regulatory Board from the Health Licensing Office to the Mental Health Regulatory Board. However, Amendment 2 to this bill has potentially disastrous consequences. It is imperative that the bill be reviewed by stakeholders including healthcare, insurance, education and parents of children on the autism spectrum before moving forward.

My concerns stem from the knowledge the Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) is an umbrella term for a number of established treatment based practices. The term ABA includes a number of interventions and practices which cross education and medical fields. ABA – inclusive of its component parts – is used in private practice, healthcare based clinics and education (ages 3-21). Other states, including California and Pennsylvania have passed legislation similar to SB135 with one significant change – they provide an exclusion for education. This bill – with Amendment 2 – would either *require* BCBA's drive many education practices and services, or most Evidenced Best Practices as defined by Oregon, and all other states, will no longer be available to the specialized education staff serving children with autism. This is appalling and contrary to state and federal guidance which requires an appropriate education for all children!

Please refer this bill back to a stakeholder advisory committee who can recommend changes to this bill that would address its concerns and intent of the bill, without its damaging affect on education in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Lawson".

Nancy Lawson

[Executor Director](#)

Nancy Lawson, M.A.

P.O. Box 805 Roseburg, OR 97470

office 541-832-2334 cell 951-704-0402

www.nwaesllc.com