

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

I'm writing in support of SB135 with the -1 and -2 amendments, to strengthen regulation of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services.

SB135, as amended, would:

Make the employer, in addition to the practitioner, legally accountable for adhering to existing Oregon law governing the practice of behavior analysis.

Clarify that the unlicensed practice of Applied Behavior Analysis is illegal and give the Health Licensing Office the authority to take enforcement action against unlicensed providers.

I am a parent of two Autistic kids in ABA services one that has been in since 2014 and one that just started summer of 2018. I am concern with my children being in ABA therapy that anyone getting therapy should be protected. A child can't be protected if everyone is not all held accountable. I work in a law enforcement entity where protecting the rights of victims is important. I as a parent worry about my child or children being victims everyday and to hear about the recent court case regarding the ABA professional just scorns me as a parent. To feel hopeless and to feel like your child is taken advantage of by a professional administering therapy over step their boundaries at every level. I can't say that any parent would not feel upset at the circumstances of such actions. But to prevent any further actions to happen in future I would want to not only hold the professional accountable but the company who hires the individuals who administer therapy. To give License entities the ability to hold those accountable when they don't adhere to rules and regulations that goes with being a Oregon Licensed ABA therapist. They should be held to high standards like any medical professional as they are preforming a medical therapy that is not cheap on a child. A therapy that changes the way they communicate, understand and vocalize their needs and wants. A therapy that helps a child with Autism or sensory issues understand a set of skills to speak and understand that will help them be productive members of society. As a parent of Autistic children and professional that is held to high standards in my job I would expect the same for those in ABA therapy services. To show that expectations are regulated thoroughly and upheld not just placed on paper and ignored. This Senate Bill would not only be important to those affected but build a system where other in the future will be better protected.

Thank you,

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