

Good Afternoon,

We wanted to write to you before the public hearing takes place tomorrow. Our son, Josh, is a student in the North Clackamas School district, and he has autism. Josh has been in numerous classrooms using the ABA model. It has been the singular most effective approach in helping Josh achieve some of his goals. Most of the professionals using the ABA model were not officially certified, but have been amazing in their approaches to teaching and learning using the principles of ABA. We have heard that these services are in jeopardy of being cut due to new proposals before the committee. SB135 Amendment 2 will require that current educational professionals be required to obtain another certification. If this is correct, it will take a discouraging amount of time and it is overkill, and not necessary. While we understand the desire to be helpful to our most vulnerable population, there are many other ways this can be achieved, and this is not one of them. Funding for special education to provide additional classroom aides, and training those aides to assist teachers in the classrooms more effectively, is a better use of resources and will allow our certified teachers to continue to use strategies that are already successful in the classroom. At home, we also use ABA strategies, as we have seen numerous teachers, assistants, and therapists use. It just seems normal to us to use these strategies, because it has become intrinsic after doing it for so many years. We can't understand why there is a need to over-regulate the simplest things that are actually fine the way they are and are actually doing great, as is. Anyone we have ever heard supportive of this, is the type of parent that is also an anti-vaxer, and wants to eliminate things they feel are intrusive. If they can over-regulate ABA strategies, they basically can remove it from schools without overtly removing it.

Please vote no on this burden on our school professionals so that our child can continue to benefit from ABA services. there is a need to

Sincerely,

Dr. and Mrs. Jeremy and Stephanie Archibald